

**IAD - Delta and Fore Delta Expert Group – Iulian Nichersu –  
A brief follow-up for the years 2013/2014, referring to the background information in the  
Activity Report 2012 and the Progress Report 2012/2013**

The vision of the DFD EG is to drive up the efficiency, effectiveness and excellence of the research system through the free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology exchange and in so doing to support the critical contribution it makes to achieving ecological equilibrium flow and economic competitiveness and addressing grand challenges.

***EU Framework Programme VII:***

- **EnviroGRIDS** - Building Capacity for a Black Sea Catchment Observation and Assessment System supporting Sustainable Development (2009-2013) Theme 6 - Environment including climate change

With 30 partners distributed in 15 countries, the enviroGRIDS project is contributing to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) by promoting the use of web-based services to share and process large amounts of key environmental information in the Black Sea catchment.

**Objective:** building capacities in the Black Sea region to use new international standards to gather, store, distribute, analyze, visualize and disseminate crucial information on past, present and future states of this region, in order to assess its sustainability and vulnerability.

The DDNI team will contribute to the assessment of the land cover/use changes for different scenarios in the Black Sea Catchment. It will participate in data collection for SWAT, in building hydrological modelling for lower Danube River and Danube delta, and will report on data availability and quality for hydrological modelling and water quality modelling in the Black Sea Catchment.

- **REFORM** - REstoring rivers FOR effective catchment Management

**THEME:** Environment (including climate change)

**TOPIC:** ENV.2011.2.1.2-1 Hydromorphology and ecological objectives of WFD

**Collaborative project (large-scale integrating project)**

**Grant Agreement 282656**

**Duration:** November 1, 2011 – October 31, 2015

The overall aim of REFORM is to provide a framework for improving the success of hydromorphological restoration measures to reach, in a cost-effective manner, target ecological status or potential of rivers.

Success is defined as being hydromorphologically sustainable, ecologically effective, and exploiting the full potential within the socio-economic setting.

Cost-effective implies an optimisation of both ecosystem health and the goods and services that natural, modified and restored rivers, floodplains and connected groundwater provide.

To achieve this aim the REFORM consortium will develop protocols and procedures to monitor the biological response to hydromorphological change with greater precision, to support the design of programmes of restoration and mitigation measures for the WFD, in particular for the upcoming 2nd round of RBMPs, and to integrate restoration better with socio-economic activities.

The specific objectives of REFORM are:

- To select WFD compliant hydromorphological and biological indicators for cost effective monitoring that characterise the consequences of physical degradation and restoration in rivers and their services.
- To evaluate and improve practical tools and guidelines for the design restoration and mitigation measures.

- To review existing data and information on hydromorphological river degradation and restoration.
- To develop a process-based, multi-scaled hydromorphological framework on European rivers and floodplains and connected groundwaters.
- To understand how hydromorphological pressures interact with other pressures that may constrain successful restoration.
- To assess the significance of scaling effects on the effectiveness of different adaptation, mitigation and restoration measures to improve ecological status or potential of rivers, floodplains and connected groundwaters.
- To develop instruments to analyse risk and assess benefits of successful river restoration, including resilience to climate change and relations to other socioeconomic activities.
- To increase awareness and appreciation for the need, potential and benefits of river restoration.

□ **PEGASO** – People for Ecosystem Based Governance in Assessing Sustainable Development of Ocean and Coast Theme 6 - Environment (including climate change)

The main objective of PEGASO was to build on existing capacities and develop common novel approaches to support integrated policies for the coastal, marine and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Basins in ways that are consistent with and relevant to the implementation of the ICZM Protocol for the Mediterranean. The project was finalized, but the continued missing. Although the premises were created instruments such as SDI and Geonod they remained in the planning stage. Although the main goal was to implement ICZM, after Maritime Directive, coastal zones as Danube Delta no longer fit into.

**EU INTERREG - South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme (SEE)**

□ **DANUBE FLOODRISK** - Stakeholder oriented flood risk assessment for the Danube Floodplains (2009-2012)

The DANUBE FLOODRISK project focuses on the most cost-effective measures for flood risk reduction for Danube River: risk assessment, risk mapping, involvement of stakeholders, risk reduction by adequate spatial planning. Even the risk maps exist, they are not used anymore – *”people expect that the maps solve the floods damages”*.

□ **DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0** – The Danube River network for protection areas – cooperation for conservation (2009-2012)

DANUBEPARKS works on various issues, including river morphology, forest management, tourism and many more. For all of these areas the integration and cooperation with stakeholders is vital. The Network has therefore established the following formal cooperations:

ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River): The DANUBEPARKS Network is an observer to the ICPDR, integrating the voice of the Protected Areas in General Assembly and Working Groups. Cooperation with the ICPDR, however, goes far beyond this formal observership as the Danube-wide Monitoring in the DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0 project shows.

DCC (Danube Competence Center): The DANUBEPARKS Network is a member of the DCC, an association of tourism stakeholders with the aim to improve and promote sustainable tourism along the Danube. The membership provides access to education and training, joint marketing activities and allows for the promotion of nature-friendly tourism.