



Resolution of the 40th IAD conference “The Danube and the Black Sea” in Sofia, Bulgaria

From 17st to 20th June 2014, more than 70 scientists and representatives of the Danube River Basin countries have met in Sofia at the 40th international IAD conference with the guiding topic “The Danube and Black Sea Region – Unique Environment and Human Well Being Under Conditions of Global Change”. The general agreement that interdisciplinary environmental research is the basis for environmentally sound and sustainable societal progress is the firm basis for the establishment in 1956 and the further development of the International Association for Danube Research in the Danube region as an integral part of Europe. The importance of IAD as a network and a communication platform between scientists and representatives of water administration have been very good forums for discussing and exchange of experiences among the scientific community in order to organize more efficiently joint efforts for realization of such important issues like the implementation of European Water Framework Directive (WFD), European strategy for the Danube region and for example the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF), a recent joint activity with the involvement of IAD members which developed to an EUSDR flagship project.

The 40th IAD conference is well in line with the successful past and highlighted the sensitive issues with regard to the Danube – Black Sea macroregion and future challenges for the whole region. The worldwide dimension of global change including temperature increases, alteration in hydromorphology, eutrophication and invasive alien species are some of the selected topics presented at the conference. A key effort for the future is the consideration of sustainable development of society, i.e. economic, ecologic and social aspects of development and environmental history as tools to meet these challenges by understanding the past and integrating societal and economical aspects. Still, the triplet of ecology, economy and social aspects is not addressed in equal manners in current management approaches. Thus, new scientific methods might be needed. The close cooperation with ICPDR was also underlined by the active participation of the executive secretary of ICPDR at the conference.

Following the wide range of presentations and the intense scientific debate during the conference, IAD would like to highlight the importance of strong collaboration networks within the Danube basin and a close cooperation with key stakeholders in the basin to provide sound solutions for future challenges in time.