

# Co-operation in the Danube River Basin

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# The start of international co-operation after the World War I

- **Commission de Regime des Eaux du Danube (CRED)**
  - the Hungarian-Romanian Water Regime Agreement (1924)
  - the Hungarian-Czechoslovakian Water Regime Agreement (1928)
- **Transcarpathian Region (Czechoslovak-Hungarian-Romanian) Commission**





# Bilateral agreements

- Hungarian-Slovakian (1978)
- Hungarian -Ukranian (1999)
- Hungarian -Romanian (2003)
- Hungarian -Yugoslavian (1955)
- Hungarian -Croatian (1995)
- Hungarian -Slovenian (1995)
- Hungarian -Austrian (1955)



# Multilateral Co-operation

- Helsinki Convention ( 1996)
- ICPDR (Sofia Convention) ( 1998)
- EU Water Framework Directive
- Tisza Water Forum (2001 )
- Budapest Initiative (2002)



# The role of international organisations

- ICPDR Focus on Danube level matters
- UNDP, UNEP, WWF, Wetland International, GEF
- Projects related to Tisza basin
- Tisza River Basin Integrated Sustainable Development Programme
- FAO Seminar on Integrated Water Management in the Tisza River Basin (Budapest, 20-21 November 2003)





# Implementation of the EU Water Framework

EU objectives: sustainable use of water



ICPDR aims:  
coordinating the  
common objectives of  
the Danube basin

National aims:

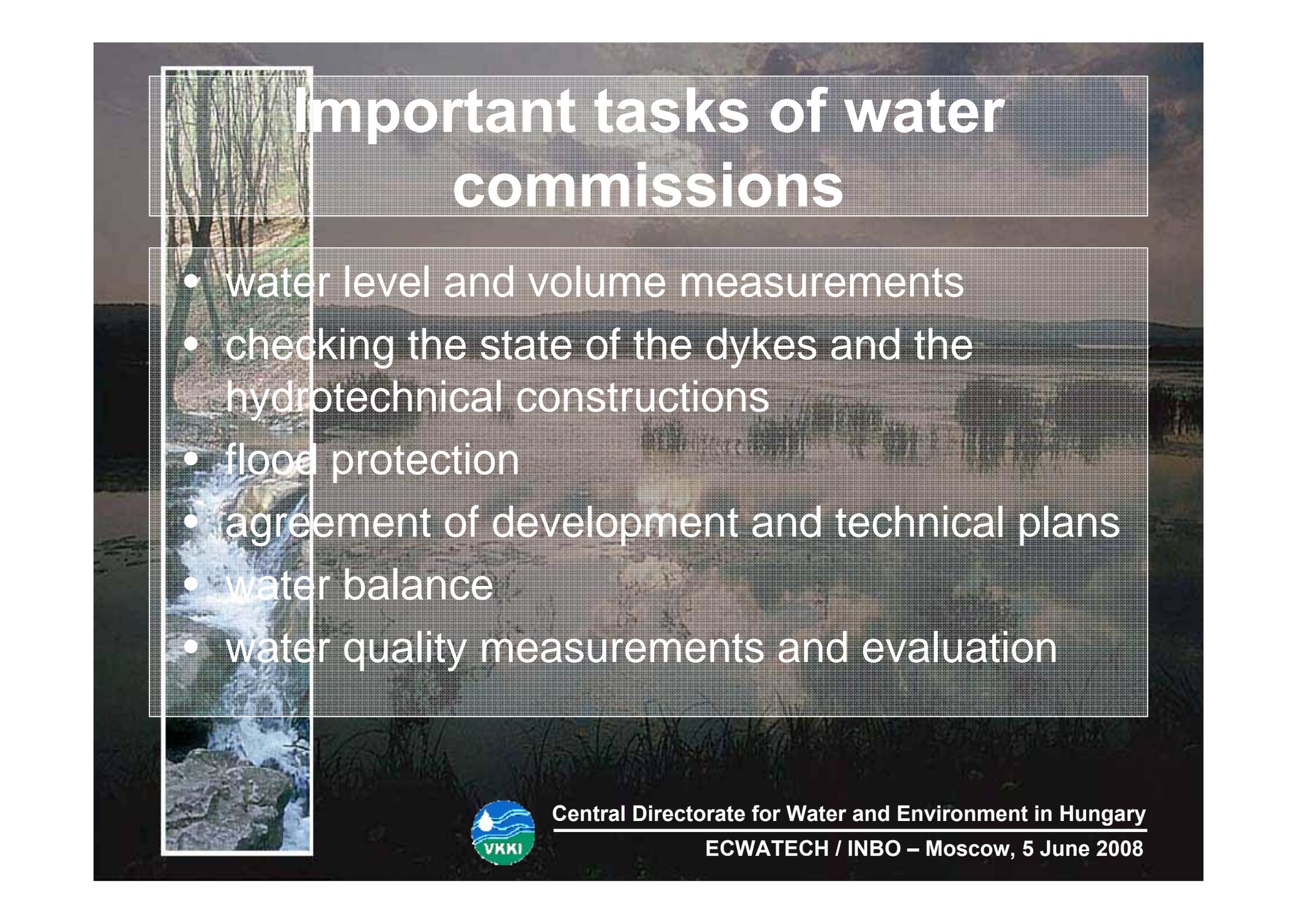
- Considering the special needs and circumstances of flood control
- Introduction of the open planning process in water management



# Cooperation in the ICPDR

- Participation in the preparation of Roof Report
- Co-ordination of the implementation of WFD
- Leading the Flood Protection Working Group
- Participation in the River Basin Management Group
- Participation in the newly created Tisza Group which prepares a sustainable management plan for the Tisza river





# Important tasks of water commissions

- water level and volume measurements
- checking the state of the dykes and the hydrotechnical constructions
- flood protection
- agreement of development and technical plans
- water balance
- water quality measurements and evaluation

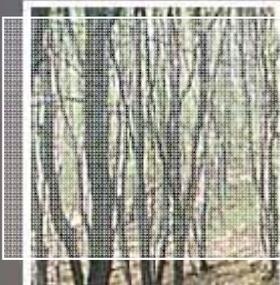


# The structure of the frontier water commissions

- **By catchment principle:**
  - Tisza Subcommittee
- **By technical or administrative principle:**
  - Water Management Subcommittee
  - Hidrometeorological Subcommittee
  - Financing Subcommittee

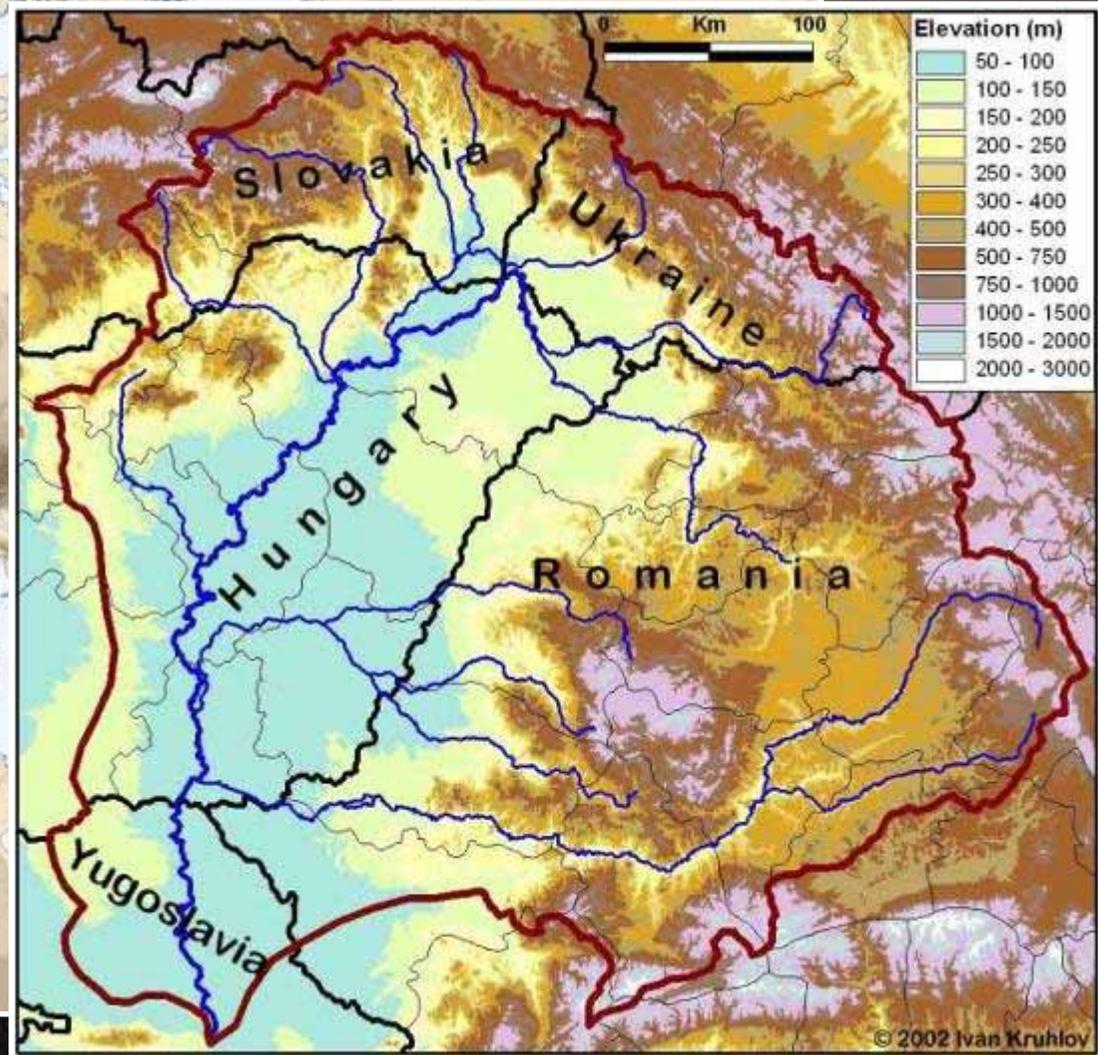


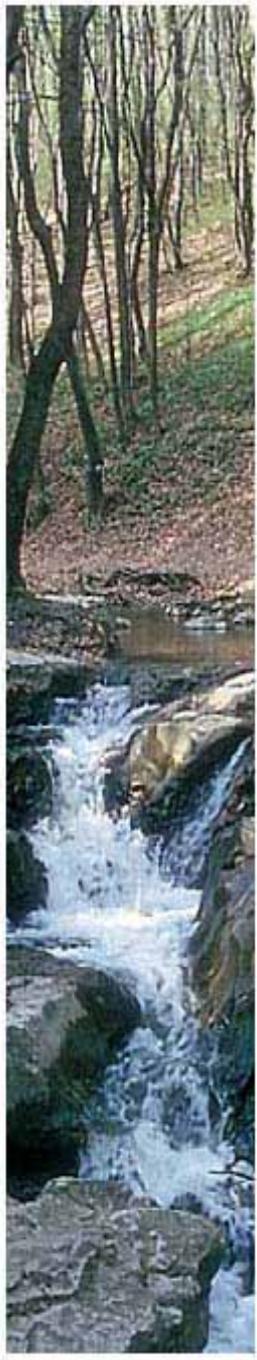
# Tisza River Basin



Longitude: 962km

Catchment area: 157 186 km<sup>2</sup>





“Like a mad who throw away his chains  
Run the river across the plains  
Crying, moaning, love its way through the lake  
And wanted to gulp the world wide.”

# By the Tisza



Sándor Petőfi



# The start of multilateral co-operation

- COMECON Tisza Group (9 topics)
- Convention on measures to combat pollution of the Tisza river and its tributaries (1986, Szeged)



# New challenges

- **Pollution, Floods, Deforestation, Loss of biodiversity**
  - Cyanid and heavy metal pollutions in 2000
  - Environmental Protection Programme (2001)
  - Heavy floods on the river Tisza 1998-2000
  - Budapest Declaration (2001)



# Tisza Water Forum

- WG I. National characteristics of the Tisza River Basin (Yugoslavia)
- WG II. Description of the flood control situation by countries (Romania)
- WG III. Increase of lead time available for preparation (Hungary)
- WG IV. Definition of the design flood levels (Slovakia)
- WG V. Implementation of the necessary measures (Ukraine)
- WG VI. Environmental impact assessment (Slovakia)
- WG VII. International co-operation, legal framework (Hungary)
- WG VIII. Integrating the outputs (Romania)
- **Tisza River Basin Flood Control Concept (2002)**



# Main results of the Forum

- Co-operation under the Forum covers
  - review of the national flood policies
  - harmonisation of the national
  - Common Flood Control Concept
  - involvement of third partners



# Ministerial MoU

## Vienna, 13-14 December 2004

- Towards a RBMP for the Tisza River supporting sustainable development of the region
- Formulation of Ad hoc Tisza Group
- Harmonisation with the UNDP/GEF Tisza projects and the Tisza Water Forum



# Latest multilateral Developments

- Co-operation with the ICPDR (Harmonizing the activities of Flood Protection EG of ICPDR and the WG 8 of the Forum)
- EU and ICPDR Initiative for strengthening the co-operation on sub-basin level



# Latest developments in the bilateral co-operation

- Hungarian-Romanian Frontier Water Agreement (2003)
- Draft of Hungarian-Slovakian Frontier Water Agreement
- Hungarian-Slovakian Committee of Common Water Basins and Frontier Waters
- Referencies relating to multilateral conventions
- Bilateral enforcement of multilateral goals



# Summary

- **After WW I: Bilateralism relying on CRED**
- **After WW II till 1994: Stronger bilateralism**
- **Sofia Convention: Possibility of multilateralism**
- **Important role of international organisations**
- **2004 Tisza MoU: Stronger multilateralism**





**Thank you  
for your kind attention**



**Central Directorate for Water and Environment in Hungary**  
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