

# Co-operation in the Tisza River Basin

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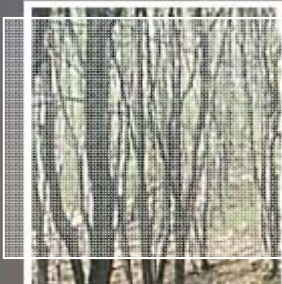
Dongying, 16-19 October 2007  
3. International Yellow River Forum



Central Bureau of Water and Environment  
in Hungary

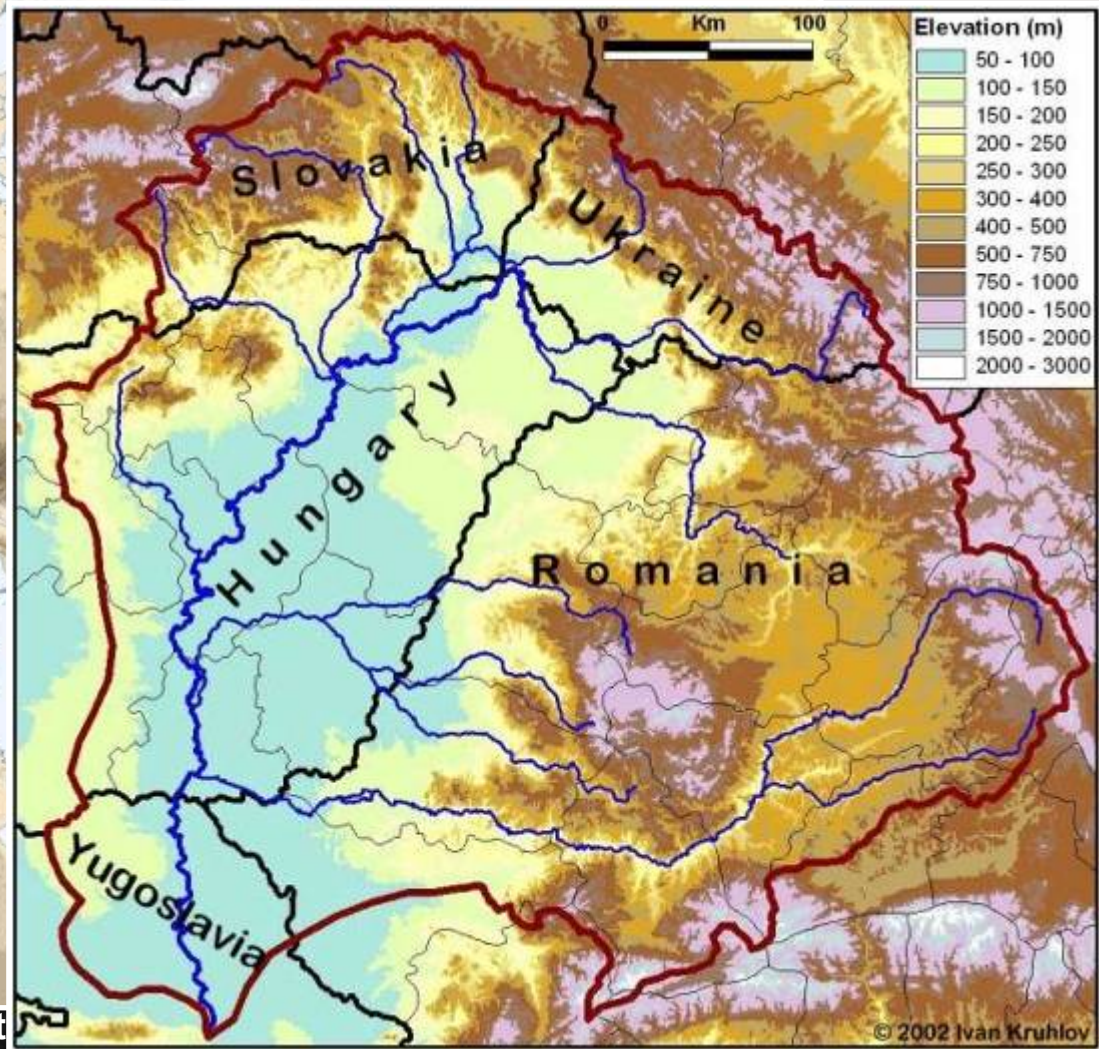


# Tisza River Basin



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 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 frontier water agreements after the World War II

- Hungary-Sovietunion
- Hungary-Romania
- Hungary-Czechoslovakia
- Hungary-Yugoslavia
- Romania-Yugoslavia
- Romania-Sovietunion
- Czechoslovakia-Sovietunion



# The structure of the frontier water commissions

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



# 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 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)**





# Changes in the international co-operation after 1990

- **New agreements with reference to Helsinki Convention**
  - Slovakia and Ukraine (1994)
  - Hungary and Ukraine (1993 and 1997)
  - Romania and Ukraine (1997)



# 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)**



# 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)



# 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**



# The Water Framework Directive as a driving force

- **Discussions with the neighbouring countries on WFD implementation**
- **Hernád/Hornad Project (HU-SK-NE)**
- **Körösök/Crisuri Project (HU-RO-FR)**
- **Hungarian-French WFD Workshop (Debrecen, 2005)**



# 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!**