



Flemish Promotor

in cooperation with



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WFD implementation in OLT Basin

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| Project full title: | Development of Integrated River Basin Management in the Olt Basin as support to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD |
| Financial support | FLEMISH GOVERNMENT |
| Programme | Co-operation programme between Flanders and Central and Eastern Europe |
| Partner country | Romania |
| Project partners | SORESMA NV, ICIM-INCDPM, ANAR Apele Romane, Province of East-Flanders |
| Start date | January 2008 - December 2010 |
| Duration | 24 months |
| Project number | ROE/024/07 |

Project Summary

The project aims to stand the implementation of the WFD through capacity building in order to improve management of hydro-morphological problems in the river basins from Romania. A good response to these problems is the improvement of horizontal (perpendicular to stream flow) and lateral (eg alongside stream flow) connectivity of the river systems. Horizontal connectivity can be improved through adjustment of river embankments in order to restore riparian wetlands crucial to aquatic life. At the same time this enables an ecological approach to flood risk management, a priority in the Olt Basin given the large floods of recent years. Lateral continuity can be guaranteed through creating passages in the river that allow and restore migration of the fish fauna in the water system.

For achieving the goals of this project the partnership we have formed consists of the Flemish consultancy Soresma, specialised in integrated water management, the water unit of the nature and environmental protection department of the Province of East-Flanders, Romanian National Water Administration and Romanian National Institute for Research and Development for Environment Protection-

ICIM Bucharest through its department Monitoring Integrate and Management of Water Quality.

Project objectives

The objective of this project is to provide capacity building to the Romanian water authorities in order to improve the management of technical solutions to the hydro-morphological problems. To reach the objectives we are following three phases:

- organizing a comprehensive workshop on innovative technological solutions, technology management and river basin management planning in Romania and Flanders (objective I)
- establishment of a strategic guidance document for the management (guide of measures) of hydro-morphological pressures in river basins, with focus on organisational, environmental, socio-economic and judicial aspects(objective II);
- implementation of the strategic guidance document in order to achieve an appropriate programme of measures to address the hydro-morphological problems in the Olt River Basin(objective III);

Actual status of the project

The objective (I) was achieved and the objective (II) of the project is in progress:

I. The workshop - organized on 13-15 February 2008 in Gent, Belgium -assured the exchange of Flemish and Romanian experience regarding the implementation of WFD, presentation of innovative technological solutions for restoring river continuity, in particular: wetlands and flood zones restoration, fish fauna migration, and management of technological innovative solutions. The speakers were Pascal Vlieghe (Soresma); Stefan Baes (Province); Kathleen van Dorslaer (Province); Vasile Bojan (ANAR/Olt Directorate); Gabriel Dragoi (ANAR); Jan Balduck (W&Z); Violeta Astratinei (ICIM); Jan Cools (Soresma); Gabriel Chiriac (ICIM); Koen Foncke (Soresma) Bart Jacobs (Soresma). Soresma and Province of East-Flanders gave an overview of several fish migration and river restoration techniques that are currently applying in Flanders. ICIM demonstrated that these techniques are perfect concretisations of the novel concepts of river restoration that have been recently introduced in the Romanian water management discourse. Preliminary assessment of experts from ANAR indicates as an appropriate study case the river Hartibaciu, a tributary of OLT river and agreed that innovative technical solutions are transferable/adjustable to this. Field visit was performed to two flood control areas of Lippensbroek and Kruikeke-Basel-Rupelmonde in the frame of the National Sigma Plan (Belgium).

II. Elaboration of strategic guideline document for the management of hydro-morphological pressures in river basins is presently in progress. This document is organised in two parts: process guidelines and technical guidelines.

The general idea of this manual is to form a guiding document for river basin management with focus on hydro-morphological pressures, applicable in a wide context (eg not only for the case study of the Hartibaciu river). The proposed methodology is directly derived from the Water Framework Directive.

In order to support the guideline document with the particular aspects of Romanian rivers a working visit to Ramnicu Valcea Water Directorate and SGA Sibiu, as well as a field trip to Hartibaciu (OLT Basin) was organized by ICIM and ANAR during 14-16 May 2008. With this occasion an inventory of the available climatic, hydrological, soil and topographical data was settled. The flood risks, low ground water levels, and the drastically decrease of biodiversity (e.g. species diversity, diversity of landscapes, diversity of ecosystems etc) were identified in the Hartibaciu river basin as the main problems. Besides the flood defence actions, the ecological restoration was mentioned as a priority for the local authorities.

Financial aspects

The Government of Flanders (VL) contributes to the project Development of Integrated River Basin Management in the Olt Basin as support to the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), ref. ROE/024/07 with the amount of 74 929, 38 euros which represent 61, 89% from the total value of the project, respectively 121 059,61 euros.

Project Team

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