
Terms of Reference of the ad hoc Information Management and Geographical Information System Expert Group (ad hoc IM+GIS EG) of the ICPDR¹

¹ adopted at the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the ICPDR in Vienna, 11/12 December 2006

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The ad hoc IM+GIS EG is an Expert Body of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), which meets on specific request of the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group.
- 1.2 The ToR provide a mandate to the ad hoc IM+GIS EG to take action in the subject areas described below. The ToR also provide guidance to the work, which the ad hoc IM+GIS EG is expected to undertake, and to its general working arrangements.

2. Objective

The overall objective of the ad hoc IM+GIS EG is to support ICPDR activities related to the operation and further development of the ICPDR information system. It comprises control over the development, implementation, testing and maintenance of a common Danube River Basin Geographical Information System (DRB GIS). The ad hoc IM+GIS EG will support the integration of the DRB GIS with the existing and future ICPDR information system, and facilitate the access to all relevant information, thus serving the information needs of and facilitating the information exchange within the ICPDR and its Expert Bodies.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The ad hoc IM+GIS EG is responsible for guiding and ensuring the successful completion of the work required under its ToR.
- 3.2 The ad hoc IM+GIS EG will report to the ICPDR, its Standing Working Group (StWG) or the other EGs, as appropriate, on the implementation of on-going activities, on proposed activities and the results achieved.
- 3.3 Where issues are also addressed by other EGs, the reports to the ICPDR and the StWG will be consulted and agreed with the other EGs before submission.
- 3.4 Proposed activities with policy or financial implications for the ICPDR must be approved, in advance, by the ICPDR.

4. Main tasks of the ad hoc IM+GIS EG

The ad hoc IM+GIS EG is entrusted to carry out the following main tasks:

4.1 ICPDR Information System

- 4.1.1 support the further development and operation of the ICPDR Information System;
- 4.1.2 organise, if necessary, training workshops in order to ensure the usability of the ICPDR Information System by delegates and members of the ICPDR Expert Bodies.

4.2 Danube River Basin GIS

- 4.2.1 assist in processes of data harmonisation of national datasets considering data requirements of the WFD and ICPDR Expert Bodies (including data and metadata modelling, data validation, encoding, etc) and in development of GIS-related criteria needed to set up and operate the DRB GIS;

- 4.2.2 guide the development of cartographic and GIS-related tools necessary for the implementation of DRPC requirements and implementation of the WFD in the Danube River Basin District;
- 4.2.3 explore both the potential for a closer cooperation and the technical implications of enabling inter-operability of the Danube GIS and the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) and to identify concrete steps for making it operational;
- 4.2.4 assist in the production of reports and maps required by ICPDR Expert Bodies;
- 4.2.5 assist in developing and utilising specific information management tools considering the needs of other ICPDR Expert Bodies;
- 4.2.6 establishment - subject to the approval of the ICPDR or its Standing Working Group - and guidance of time limited Task Groups to provide needed input to fulfil the tasks listed above.

5. Cooperation with other ICPDR bodies

The ad hoc IM+GIS EG will collaborate with and support the work of other ICPDR Expert Bodies, in particular the RBM EG.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The ad hoc IM+GIS EG consists of the representatives as nominated by the Contracting Parties to be a standing member of the ad hoc IM+GIS EG. Additional experts may also participate in meetings if their particular specialist knowledge is required.
- 6.2 Each Contracting Party may propose candidates (one or more) to participate in (time-limited) Task Groups organised to address specific issues.
- 6.3 Representatives of other organisations may become accredited observers to the ad hoc IM+GIS EG and/or its Task Groups by following the relevant procedures of the ICPDR relating to observer status.

7. Working Arrangements

The general working arrangements for the ad hoc IM+GIS EG are provided by the ICPDR Rules of Procedure.