

PRESS INFORMATION

Facts and Figures about the Danube River Basin

The Danube River Basin is the catchment area of the second largest river in Europe and covers over 800,000km² in 18 different countries, connecting Eastern and Western Europe. This makes it the world's most international river basin. More than 81 Mio people - with different cultures, histories and languages - from the Black forest in Germany down to the shores of the Black Sea, call the Danube Basin their home.

The Danube river and its more than 300 tributaries serve many demands, as for example supply for irrigation, drinking water, power production, fisheries etc. Agricultural and industrial activities have led to increased pressure on the water. Water pollution has drastically undermined the Danube's biodiversity. Since rivers know no borders, it is only through a joint effort of the Basin countries that environmental problems of the Danube River Basin can be addressed.

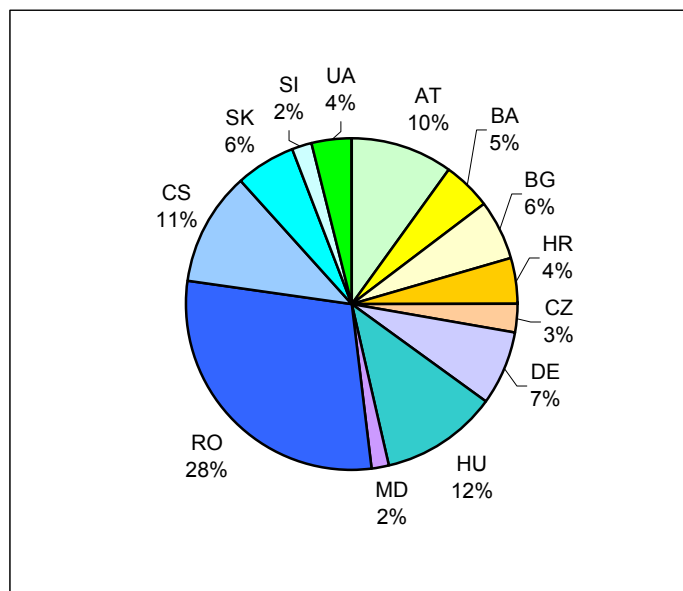
The Danube in short:	The Danube River Basin in short:
Length: 2.780 km	Size: 801.463 km ² (ca. 10% of continental Europe)
Navigable length: 2412 km	Inhabitants: 81 million
Annual water discharge: 202 bn m ³ (average 6,460 m ³ /sec)	Size of the Danube Delta: 679.000 ha
	Main tributaries: Tisza, Sava, Inn, Morava, Drava, Velika Morava, Iskar, Siret, Prut

18 countries make the Danube River Basin the most international river basin in the world

Connecting Eastern and Western Europe, the Danube and its basin includes portions of 18 countries. Germany (DE), Austria (AT), Czech Republic (CZ), Slovakia (SK), Hungary (HU), Slovenia (SI), Croatia (HR), Bosnia-Herzegovina (BA), Serbia-Montenegro (CS), Romania (RO), Bulgaria (BG), Moldova (MD), Ukraine (UA) as well as Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Albania and Macedonia (with very small shares).

The share of the different countries (%) of the Danube River Basin area¹

(Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Albania and Macedonia are not included)



International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) is an international organisation consisting of 13 cooperating states and the European Union. Since its establishment in 1998, the ICPDR has grown into one of the largest and most active international bodies of river basin management expert in Europe. ICPDR deals not only with the Danube itself, but with the whole Danube River Basin, which includes also its tributaries and the ground water resources.

The ultimate goal of the ICPDR is to implement the Danube River Protection Convention (DRPC) and make it a living tool. Its ambitious mission is to promote and coordinate sustainable and equitable water management, including conservation, improvement and rational use of waters for the benefit of the Danube River Basin countries and their people. The ICPDR pursues its mission by making recommendations for the improvement of water quality, developing mechanisms for flood and accident control, agreeing standards for emissions and by assuring that these are reflected in the Contracting Parties' national legislations and applied in their policies.

Further information and contact:

International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Permanent Secretariat

Ms. Jasmine Bachmann

T: +43 26060 5738

M: +43 664 2140626

F: +43 26060 5895

E: icpdr@unvienna.org

www.icpdr.org

ikp (Communication & PR)

Ms. Yvonne Masopust

T: +43 524 77 90 15

F: +43 524 77 90 5

E: yvonne.masopust@ikp.at

www.ikp.at

¹ Danube River Basin District, Part A - Roof Report (ICPDR Document IC/077, 16-April-2004)