

Transboundary Cooperation, Hungary

**Transboundary co-
operation of the
Republic of Hungary**

**Dr. Miklós Varga, János
Rémai, Kálmán Papp**

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The Danube river basin in Central-Europe

- **most international basin in the world**
- **17 riparian countries**
- **Basin area: 779500 km²**
- **Hungary and its 7 neighbours (Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Slovenia) share 77,7 % of the basin area (605700 km²)**
- **Longitude: 2842 km (Hungarian stretch: 417 km)**

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Comparison with South-American basins

- The Danube basin is small compared with the Amazonas or the La Plata basins
- The Amazonas basin appr. 7.5 times bigger
- The La Plata basin appr. 4.3 times bigger
- The latter have fewer riparian countries
- Longitude of Danube similar to Sao Francisco, Rio Negro or the Paraguay
- These rivers have 1 or max. 3 riparian countries

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European Outlook

- **Basel Convention 1879.** - (timber floating, navigation)
- **Hispano-Portugal agreements on river Duero (Duoro)** - use of hydro-energy
- **Use of international rivers (Danube)** - navigation (role of non riparian countries)
- **Peace treaties after the I.WW** - (use of the divided basin)

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Consequences of the I. World War

- **Peace Treaties of the Environs of Paris (1919-1920.)** legally closed the I. WW
- **Trianon Treaty 4 June 1920.** (Division of the Carpathian-basin)
- **Clause 292 Common Interest Principle**
- **Clause 293 Organisation of C. R. E. D.**

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Commission Technique de Regime des Eaux du Danube (C.R.E.D.)

- **Permanent Technical Commission for the Water Regime of the Danube**
- **C.R.E.D. worked in the period 1924-1938.**
- **Liquidation of the water boards**
- **Initiated bilateral and trilateral frontier water agreements among the interested states**

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The first frontier water agreements

- **Hungarian-Roumanian General Water Agreement 1924.**
- **Hungarian-Austrian Frontier Water Agreement 1927.**
- **Hungarian-Czecho-Slovakian Frontier Water Agreement 1937.**
- **Hungarian-Roumanian-Czecho-Slovakian Technical Committee for Transcarpathia**

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Frontier water agreements after the II. World War

- **1950. Hungarian-Soviet Agreement renewed in 1981.**
- **1950. Hungarian-Roumanian Agreement renewed in 1969. and 1986.**
- **1954. Hungarian-Czecho-Slovakian Agreement renewed in 1976.**
- **1955. Hungarian-Yugoslavian Agreement**
- **1956. Hungarian-Austrian Agreement**

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Hungarian-Austrian Water Committee

- Most traditional agreement and committee
- Catchment areas: Lake of Fertő, Ikva, Pinka, Hanság, Rába, Lapincs rivers
- Operational and preparatory activities managed by the H-A Water Subcommittee
- Working Group for Water Quality Control
- New topics: subsurface waters, EU matters

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Hungarian-Slovakian Committee of Frontier Waters

- **Danube Subcommittee**
- **Ipoly Subcommittee**
- **Tisza Subcommittee**
- **Water Quality Control Subcommittee**
- **Financial Subcommittee**
- **Group of Hydrological Experts**

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Hungarian-Ukrainian Frontier Water Agreement

- **1993. New agreement with the independent Ukraine, the use of the Hungarian-Soviet agreement is ended**
- **1998. Modified agreement with reference to Helsinki Convention**
- **Water Damage Averting Group of Experts**
- **Water Quality Control GoE**
- **Hydrological and Water Management GoE**

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Hungarian-Roumanian Water Technical Joint Committee

- Preparation of a new agreement is going on by an Inter-governmental Committee**
- Hydrometeorological Subcommittee**
- Longterm WM Planning Subcommittee**
- Water Quality Control Subcommittee**
- Many additional regulations are in force**

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Hungarian-Yugoslavian Water Management Committee

- **The 1955. Agreement is considered valid by both parties**
- **Interruption of co-operation by the civil war**
- **Special Ministerial Commissioner acted in the intermedier period**
- **1996. The Committee has a session again**
- **Interruption of activities by the Kosovo war**

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Permanent Hungarian-Slovenian Water Management Committee

- 1995. Transboundary Water Agreement with the independent Slovenia with reference to the Helsinki and the Sophia Conventions**
- Smallest common interest territory**
- Working Group of Water Management**
- Working Group of Water Quality Control**

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Multilateral Co-operation

- **1992. Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki)**
- **1994. Convention on the Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube (Sofia)**
- **2000. EU Water Framework Directive**
- **INBO and GWP**

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Vision on Future Co-operation

- The execution of the WFD is the task of the member countries**
- The water management development plans for the common sub-basins must be agreed between the interested countries**
- The importance of transboundary co-operation will be strengthened**
- Even common legal entities (directorates) should be formulated**

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**Thank you for your
kind attention !**