WP4: Act. 4.2 Preparation of Drava River Framework – Agreement on common vision, goals and measures
Act. 4.3 Implementation of Pilot Actions on the Drava River Corridor

STAKEHOLDER AGREEMENT
for the Slovenian Drava Pilot Area
from Maribor to Zavrč

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the frame of the SEE River project - Integrated Sustainable Management of International River Corridors in South East Europe and its idea of Drava River Framework, the Development Concept of the Drava River Corridor from Maribor to Zavrč was developed for Slovenian Pilot Area. The Development Concept is stakeholders’ agreement, which promotes, connects and harmonises management solutions stemming from water management, nature conservation, energy production, agriculture, tourism, recreation and other recognised sectors in the region. The Development Concept is an expert technical study and a background document for regional development plans and regional spatial plans. At the same time, it provides general guidance for sustainable development along the Drava River, taking into account both the conservation and the development interests.

By developing guiding view of the river corridor it defines the future wanted state in it, as well as promotes concrete steps how to achieve it. It determines the goals and necessary measures to achieve them. On the basis of measures, the action plan was elaborated which defines the actions (initiatives, ideas, activities, planned projects etc.) that will contribute to the realisation of the goals of the Development Concept for achieving a contemporary river corridor status and the 2030 Drava River Vision, adopted by stakeholders. Furthermore, the implementation of the Development Concept will contribute to increased economic competitiveness of the region, improved employability of local inhabitants and sustainable use of natural resources.

It is an integrated document, which foresees the River Drava and its pilot river corridor becoming an ecological and development axis of a contemporary tourism, energy and agricultural region of the Spodnje Podravje.

The Development Concept was developed by a group of experts from the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia and the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, in cooperation with Institute Iskriva and Lucija Marovt Communications Management. It was developed in close cooperation with national, regional and local level stakeholders. A series of workshops, working meetings, presentations and project groups meetings was organised for the purpose of their involvement.

1.1 Development Concept Structure, Content and Objectives

Development Concept consists of three main parts: Drava River Vision 2030, Contemporary Drava River Corridor Regulation Concept and Action Plan. Drava River Vision 2030 is defining sample image of Drava River and its corridor, Regulation Concept defines the path to the realisation of the image and details objectives of regulation. Aims, measures and guidance are structured in five central pillars:

- the water economy-nature-energy management and use of the River Drava,
- adapted forestry and agricultural practices on inundation and aquifer areas in the Drava River corridor,
- the water-recreational-touristic water axis Maribor-Ptuji-Žavreč,
- public education and awareness raising,
- spatial planning and Drava River corridor management with trans boundary context.

Besides that, as support to Regulation Concept, an expert cartographic basis were developed, introducing the Drava River influential areas with guidance for land-use planning within them. Action Plan completes the whole document with concrete activities, necessary for realisation of regulation Concept.

**1.2 Slovenian Drava Pilot Area Methodology**

Stakeholder involvement represented foundation for composition of Development Concept. It provided better knowledge and information transfer among various sectors and stakeholders from different levels: local, regional and national. Elaborating Development Concept in close cooperation with stakeholders assured that in the end they would took over follow up activities and responsibilities for Development Concept realisation. This is why a successive process of interactive
workshops, individual representation, meetings and consultations was led out in order to reach a joint consensus on future development of Slovenian Drava River Corridor (Figure 2).

The process was started with individual meetings with various stakeholders in order to acquire and examine spatial data and to evaluate data and findings resulting from cabinet analyses and fieldwork. First to follow, was national workshop in April 2013, where Slovenian project team presented the purpose of the project, the intended process in Slovenian Drava River Corridor and final objectives to stakeholders on national level. Possible development activities and challenges in corridor were defined with consideration of providing good water status, flood protection, nature protection and biotic diversity. Workshop was concluded with recognition of opportunities and possible projects to be realised in defined corridor.

In the series of following workshops, local stakeholders played a key role. In the first local workshop, in June 2013, stakeholders directly connected with Drava, presented their views on Drava River Corridor management. Project team drafted Drava River Vision 2030 and defined interests and oppositions in river corridor, which presented the basis for future work in pilot area. Besides that, stakeholders declared themselves for thematic contents in which they would be willing to take part.

By second local workshop, in December 2013, project group worked intensely on river corridor analyses, prepared the draft of Contemporary Drava River Corridor Regulation Concept and Action Plan and improved Drava River Vision 2030 draft. Project group prepared various spatial analyses (historic cartographic maps analysis, floods analysis, river terraces analysis, nature protection analysis, infrastructure and building parcels analysis, etc.) and worked on spatial definition of environmental - development conflicts and interest, recognised in first local workshop. On second local workshop, work therefore focused on preparation of drafts in detail. Project group prepared the documents in a manner of basis for future development of river corridor and guidance for future projects on regional level.

Based on spatial analyses, a number of other conflicts and interests in the river corridor were recognized. Within interactive work, stakeholders defined five regional projects, for which there is an interest from a broad range of stakeholders. These projects were found essential for the remediation of current environmental burdens and important for ensuring further development of river corridor.

An important step after second local workshop was meeting of SEE River project group, mayors, and local communities’ representatives. Mayors and representatives confirmed project approach of connecting different contents on regional level as an effective tool to support the development of the entire region. They have recognized the necessity of abandoning individual planning and implementation of separate initiatives, measures and actions. They agreed upon importance of searching for common, coherent and comprehensive solutions on regional level. Project group worked in close cooperation with national stakeholder level as well. We connected local project activities with Ministry of Infrastructure, Directorate of Spatial Planning and with regional development agencies. Cooperation resulted in excellent knowledge exchange and in the Drava River Vision 2030 becoming an essential part of strategic regional development programs of Podravje region.

Furthermore, second workshop placed many starting-points for analytical work in the river corridor. With the use of GIS based analyses, fieldtrips, and fieldwork, influential areas of the Drava River Corridor were defined. With them Flood, Habitat and Bird Directive are realized within defined Drava
Corridor. At the same time project group prepared guidance and limitations for different uses and initiatives within influential areas, recognized as important within workshops.

From first workshop on, based on constant cooperation and communication with stakeholders, project group identified development - environment conflicts respectively problems need to be solved before development initiatives are implemented. SEE River team therefore searched for possible problems solutions in connection with development impulses in region.

Before third local workshop, project ideas, which strive for regional scale and are in logical connection with Drava Vision 2030, were exposed. We placed these in Drava River influential areas and prepared cartographic material in a way that stakeholders would be able to understand and see what their project suggestions mean for the region.

Third local workshop, organized in May 2014 was intended for upgrade of Regulation Concept, but above all especially for design of an Action Plan and action groups, which would take care for its realization. Furthermore, Drava River Corridor influential areas were presented and explanations regarding limitations and guidance from water management and nature conservation domain. Project group presented how stakeholders’ projects proposals appear in space and illustrated how to use guidance in an effective way, when planning various contents of Development Concept.

In interactive part, stakeholders first presented their proposals and comments on improvement of Development Concept. This was followed by presentation of Action Plan and consequently stakeholders’ distribution in eight thematic groups:

1. flood risk reduction
2. old river branches and backwaters restoration,
3. facilitation of sustainable river dynamics,
4. comprehensive regulation of the Šturmovci Regional Park,
5. the establishment of the Drava waterway,
6. integration of various recreational trails,
7. establishment of a “Drava Group”
8. fish and fishing.

In this way, workshop participants defined concrete topics within thematic groups and proposed action plans for various future projects, which would follow the SEE River project. Participants defined future projects’ coordinators. They defined how the processes would run as well. They agreed upon future steps in projects’ preparations within the next 6-12 months and distributed roles and tasks among themselves.

In the final event, national capacity building seminar, final versions of harmonized Drava River Vision 2030, Contemporary Drava River Corridor Regulation Concept and Action Plan were presented. In the Action Plan presentation, project team summarized work in pilot area and presented concrete follow up activities and steps for the implementation of future projects.
1.3 Slovenian Drava Pilot Area Process Scheme

Figure 2: Process Scheme showing a step-by-step process from drafting a common Drava Vision 2030 to determination of concrete actions and projects to follow, which strive to implement the objectives recognized in Drava Vision

2. MAIN OUTPUTS OF THE PILOT AREA PROJECT WORK

Various outputs and different maps were produced during the project, which are collected in a project box (printed version) and are available as PDF documents.

1. Drava River Vision 2030

2. Contemporary Drava River Corridor Regulation Concept

3. Action Plan – actions with defined steps for implementation

   3.1 Restoration of the Drava River Corridor from Maribor to the Croatian border: integrated project for flood risk reduction and biodiversity conservation

   3.2 The revival of Šturmovci Regional Park

   3.3 Drava Cycling Route

   3.4 Drava Waterway
3.5 Fish and Fisheries

3.6 Establishment of Maribor island information centre and Drava left bank accompaniment infrastructure

3.7 Sport Touristic Educational Recreational Centre at Drava River

3.8 The Drava Group

4. **Main Cartographic Material and Drawings** *(original cartographic material is in Slovene)*

4.1 River Corridor Analyses (National Workshop)
4.2 Land Use in River Corridor (National Workshop)
4.3 National Level Content Evidence (National Workshop)
4.4 River Corridor (National Workshop)
4.5 EU Directives (1st Local Workshop)
4.6 Spatial Analyses (1st Local Workshop)
4.7 Interests in River Corridor (1st Local Workshop)
4.8 Contemporary River (1st Local Workshop)
4.9 Drava River Scenarios (Floodplains, Corridors and Stepping Stones, River overburdened with agriculture, River overburdened with settlements, River overburdened with industry, Pristine River) (1st Local Workshop)
4.10 Historical cartographic map analysis (2nd Local Workshop)
4.11 Floods and River terraces (2nd Local Workshop)
4.12 Nature Protection (2nd Local Workshop)
4.13 Building land and Infrastructure (2nd Local Workshop)
4.14 Drava River Space (2nd Local Workshop)
4.15 Drava River dynamics areas (2nd Local Workshop)
4.16 Environmental Development Conflicts Areas (2nd Local Workshop)
4.17 Agricultural land (2nd Local Workshop)
4.18 Forrest (2nd Local Workshop)
4.19 Agricultural and Forestry Interests (2nd Local Workshop)
4.20 Recreational, Sports, Touristic and Educational Interests (2nd Local Workshop)
4.21 Topographic map (2nd Local Workshop)
4.22 Digital orthophoto (2nd Local Workshop)
4.23 Flood Risk and River Dynamics consideration failure (2nd Local Workshop)
4.24 Potential Conflicts among Nature protection and Planned Land Use (2nd Local Workshop)
4.25 Drava River Vision 2030 (drawing) (2nd Local Workshop)
4.26 Drava River Influential Areas (3rd Local Workshop)
4.27 Environmental Development Conflicts (3rd Local Workshop)
4.28 Drava Sports Recreational Touristic Axis (3rd Local Workshop)
4.29 Drava River Influential Areas
4.30 Guidance and Limitations for Riparian Areas and Future Land Use Planning
3. STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In the process of drafting the Development Concept of the Drava River Corridor from Maribor to Zavrč and its supportive documents, different organizations and individuals participated with their suggestions and contributions. Inputs collected and discussed at the excursions, fieldwork, workshops, working meeting, presentations or individual consultations helped to shape the common vision and promising results.

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Figure 3: Poster signed by stakeholders, confirming collaboration in preparation and provision of future support for implementation of Drava River Vision 2030 and Contemporary Drava River Corridor Regulation Concept and Action Plan