

# **DanubeHIS Policy Document for Data Exchange**

**(Policy on the Exchange of Hydrological and Meteorological  
Data and Information in the Danube River Basin)**

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# **POLICY ON THE EXCHANGE OF HYDROLOGICAL AND METEOROLOGICAL DATA AND INFORMATION IN THE DANUBE RIVER BASIN**

The Signatories to this Policy (hereinafter: Signatories),

**Recognising** the vital importance of trans-boundary co-operation on hydrometeorological data and information for the sustainable management of the Danube River Basin;

**Referring** to the Danube River Protection Convention of 29 June 1994;

**Taking into account** the significant progress made in relation to the sharing of data and information since the formation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR); have agreed as follows:

## **1. Definitions**

1.1. In this Policy, unless otherwise stated, all terms are defined in accordance with the WMO/UNESCO International Glossary of Hydrology (WMO, No. 385, 3rd Edition, 2012).

1.2. The terms below shall have the following meanings:

“Data”	Output resulting from the measurement or observation of variables.
“Information”	Result of analysing or integrating data.
“Danube River Basin”	The geographical area determined by the watershed limits of the Danube River and its tributaries, which comprises surface and ground waters, flowing into a common terminus.
“the States”	States whose territories include part of the Danube River Basin.
“ICPDR”	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
“Data Provider”	Any organisation listed in Annex A, which provides Data or Information for exchange under this policy.
“Data Receiver”	Any organisation listed in Annex A, which receives Data or Information exchanged under this policy.
“Redistribution”	Dissemination by a Data Receiver of Data or Information exchanged under this Policy to a third party; including public dissemination, either physically or electronically, of data and information.
“Signatories”	Any organisations, which may provide (“Data Provider”) or receive (“Data Receiver”) data or information under this Policy.

## 2. Context

### 2.1. Exchange of hydrological and meteorological Data and Information within the Danube River

Basin is vital for the sustainable management of water resources and mitigation of water-related hazards.

### 2.2. Through Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII) - Exchange of Hydrological Data and Products, and Resolution

40 (Cg-XII) - Policy and Practice for the Exchange of Meteorological and Related Data and Products, the World Meteorological Organization encourages its Members to provide on a free and unrestricted basis<sup>1</sup> those hydrological data and products which are necessary for the provision of services in support of the protection of life and property and for the well-being of all peoples. Resolution 25 recognises the right of Governments to choose the manner by which, and the extent to which, they make hydrological data and products available domestically and internationally.

### 2.3. Under Articles 9 and 12 of the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable use

of the Danube River (Danube River Protection Convention) the Contracting Parties have agreed to the exchange of data related to the Danube River Basin and cooperation in the field of monitoring and assessment.

### 2.4. The States' current legal statutes regarding the collection and exchange of hydrological and

meteorological data and information differ; however, international cooperation on this matter within the Danube River Basin will provide benefits to all States and their hydrometeorological institutions. In this context the Signatories will, within the constraints of their States' legal statutes, be committed to the principles and practices detailed in this Policy.

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<sup>1</sup> "Free and unrestricted" means non-discriminatory and without charge. "Without charge" in the context of this resolution means at no more than the cost of reproduction and delivery, without charge for the data and the product themselves.

### **3. Objectives of the Policy**

3.1. This Policy provides the technical and conceptual principles required to extend and further promote the data exchange and interoperability within the Danube River Basin. Establishment of this Policy ensures the access and rules for dissemination of hydrological and meteorological data and information for the purpose of sustainable transboundary water management in the Danube River Basin.

### **4. Organisations covered by the Policy**

4.1. The organisations, which may provide (Data Providers) or receive (Data Receiver) Data or Information under this Policy, are listed in Annex A. This list should comprise all current Signatories. The ICPDR will maintain and publish it in DanubeHIS. The list will include an indication of whether the data is provided by a Signatory and details of a current named contact. Each Signatory will review this list annually and provide the ICPDR with updated information as required.

### **5. Data covered by the Policy**

5.1. This Policy covers all Data or Information listed in Annex B, which are collected and shared on a voluntary basis by the Data Providers from monitoring sites in geographical locations covered by Clause 6.

### **6. Monitoring locations covered by the Policy**

6.1. The monitoring locations covered by this Policy should include nominated observation stations with automatic registration within the Danube River Basin.

6.2. The ICPDR will maintain metadata (described in clause 10) of all locations within the Danube River Basin (and the surrounding area) where Data or Information covered by this Policy is monitored or held by the Signatories. All Signatories will provide this metadata to the ICPDR and ensure that it is annually reviewed and updated when necessary.

## **7. Data to be exchanged**

- 7.1. The principles and procedures contained within this Policy may be used to exchange any data and information covered by Clause 5. Signatories agree to make any such Data or Information available to all other Signatories (and the ICPDR) where possible.
- 7.2. The Policy specifies a minimum level of data and information exchange in Annex B. Exchange of the data and information outlined in Annex B is deemed essential for the effective management of the Danube River Basin. Where Signatories currently collect or hold any of the data and information listed in Annex B on the nominated locations according to the Clause 5, they agree to the regular exchange of this in accordance with procedures and timetables outlined therein.

## **8. Exchange routes**

- 8.1. The ICPDR developed an online data portal (“DanubeHIS”) to facilitate the exchange of data and information between the Signatories. To support Data Providers in importing data to the data portal (“DanubeHIS”), the ICPDR will host and maintain the database and software for common data exchange developed by DAREFFORT project (HyMeDES EnviroNet).
- 8.2. This Policy covers the transfer of Data and Information from each Data Provider to the ICPDR, and consequently through ICPDR’s data portal to all of the Data Receivers.
- 8.3 Besides the Signatories the Data and Information may be accessed through ICPDR’s data portal by any other organisations, based on the classification (restrictions) defined by the Data Provider.

## **9. Data format, transfer method and procedures**

- 9.1. Data and Information should be transferred in a format mutually agreed between the Data Provider, Data Receiver and the ICPDR. This format will be compliant with the WaterML 2.0, which is proposed as WMO-ISO standard for hydrological data exchange.
- 9.2 As repeated Data and Information exchanges or (near) real-time Data exchange will be established, the Data Provider and the ICPDR shall agree on a timetable for regular exchange.

## **10. Metadata**

- 10.1. Metadata should be provided with any Data or Information exchanged under this Policy, describing the classification and quality of the exchanged Data (including e.g. the measurement method).
- 10.2. The metadata to be provided will be described in detail in accordance with provisions of the Annex B of this agreement.

## **11. Data quality and measurement standard**

- 11.1. If the Data and processed or statistical Information concerning e.g. daily mean values is exchanged without undergoing full quality control – it is to be considered provisional. The operational (near real-time) data is always considered provisional, because the quality control cannot be reasonably fulfilled. Annex B provides the technical details for each parameter. The Data Provider will include information about the data quality at the point of transfer.
- 11.2. Appropriate use of Data and Information exchanged under this Policy is the responsibility of the Data Receiver. The Data Provider accepts no liability for any loss or damage, cost or claims arising directly or indirectly from their use.

## **12. Data Redistribution, publishing and use**

- 12.1. Data Receivers (other than the ICPDR – in cases described in Clause 12.2. and 12.3.) may not redistribute Data or Information exchanged under this Policy to any third party without the prior agreement of the Data Provider.
- 12.2. The ICPDR may publish Data or Information exchanged under this Policy in its publications (for example in Hydrological Studies and in River Basin Management/Flood Protection/Sediment Management Plans).
- 12.3. The ICPDR may also redistribute data and information publicly via its online web-portal in accordance with the data classification and data access restrictions given by the Data Providers.

12.4 Data Receivers and ICPDR may not use received data and information for any commercial use, i.e. selling products and services, without the prior agreement of the Data Provider.

### **13. Ownership and acknowledgment**

13.1. The provision of Data or Information under this Policy confers only a right for the Data Receiver to use it as detailed in Clause 12. Ownership of the Data or Information will not be transferred.

13.2. In any publications, reports or products arising from use of the Data or Information the Data Receiver undertakes to acknowledge the Data Provider as the source.

### **14. Charging**

14.1. Data and information exchanged under Annex B is done freely and without charge.

### **15. Future harmonization of data and information**

15.1. While recognising current differences in the collection and management of hydrological and meteorological data by the Data Providers, the Signatories agree to work together, through the ICPDR, to further review and standardise their collection and management of the data and information covered by the Policy if reasonable and possible.

### **16. Disputes**

16.1. If a dispute arises between two or more Signatories about the interpretation or implementation of this Policy, they shall seek a solution by negotiation through the ICPDR Flood Protection Expert Group.

### **17. Come into effect**

17.1. This Policy will come into effect upon acceptance by the ICPDR and the Signatories, and be concluded for an indefinite period of time.



## **18. Changes to the Policy**

- 18.1. Changes to this Policy, other than to the Annexes, must be agreed by the ICPDR and the Signatories in the written form.
- 18.2. The ICPDR will amend Annex A in light of new or withdrawing Signatories and other required changes. The ICPDR will inform all Signatories of any changes to Annex A within one calendar month.
- 18.3. Annex B will be reviewed and where necessary amended by the ICPDR, upon proposal of the ICPDR's Flood Protection Expert Group (FP EG) and Information Management & GIS Expert Group (IMGIS EG) at least once every 2 years, to ensure it reflects current Danube River Basin management needs. The ICPDR will inform all Signatories of any changes to this Annex.
- 18.4. Changes to the list of stations (listed in Annex B.3) can be undertaken only upon notification from the respective Signatories. The changes will be notified to the ICPDR FP EG, and will be maintained and published in DanubeHIS.

## **19. New Signatories**

- 19.1. The Signatories to this Policy should normally include, but are not limited to, the States' national hydrometeorological institutions - or equivalent organisation responsible for the collection and/or management and distribution of a States' national hydrological and meteorological Data or Information. Additional organisations, which operate in one (or more) of the States in connection with the management of the Danube River Basin, may become a Signatory to the Policy at the invitation of the ICPDR after a prior approval of all Signatories.

## **20. Termination and withdrawal**

- 20.1. This Policy may be terminated by mutual agreement of all Signatories.
- 20.2. Any Signatory to this Policy may withdraw from this Policy by giving at least 90 days written notice to the ICPDR, who shall communicate it to all other Signatories without delay.

## **21. Other**

21.1. The Policy does not affect arrangements for the exchange of data and information between the Signatories provided for in other bilateral or multilateral agreements.

21.2. The Annexes to this Policy shall constitute an integral part thereof. The Annexes are as follows:

Annex A: Organisations covered by the Policy

Annex B: Format and details of Data and Information exchange

21.3. This Policy is signed in a single copy in English language, which shall remain deposited in the archives of the ICPDR, and copies of which shall be delivered to all Signatories.

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,  
Regions and Water Management (BML)

Signed by:



Name: Konstan Brehl

Title: Director of Directorate 113

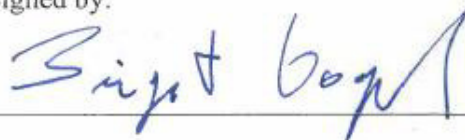
Date: 20.08.2023

Place: Vienna

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:  
Sava River Watershed Agency (AVPS)

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the  
Danube River (ICPDR)



Signed by:

  
Name: SEJAD DELIĆ

Title: DIRECTOR

Date: 20.09.2023.

Place: SARAJEVO, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Signed by:

  
Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

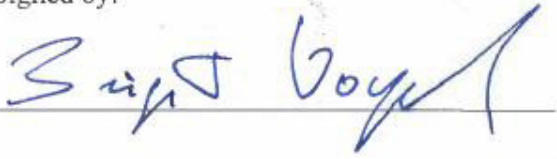
On behalf of:  
Federal Hidrometeorological Institute (FHMZ)

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:

Signed by:





Name: ALMIR BIEDIC

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: DIREKTOR FHMZ

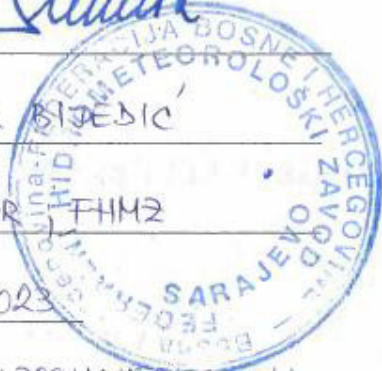
Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 13.11.2023

Date: 07.11.2023

Place: SARAJEVO, BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA

Place: Vienna, Austria



In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Republic of Srpska (RHMZRS)

Signed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: DARKO BOROJEVIĆ

Title: DIRECTOR

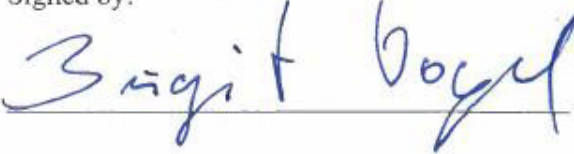
Date: 13.11.2023

Place: Banja Luka Republic of Srpska  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 07.11.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Bulgaria (NIMH)

Signed by:



Name: Tania Marinova

Title: Acting Director General, NIMH


Date: 07.12.2023

Place: Sofia, Bulgaria

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 09.11.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

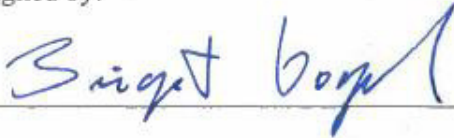
On behalf of:  
Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI)

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:

Signed by:

  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Name: MARK RIEDER

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: DIRECTOR CHMI

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 24.7.2023

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: PRAMA, C2

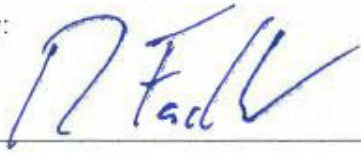
Place: Vienna, Austria



In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy  
on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:  
Bavarian Environment Agency (LfU)

Signed by:



Name: Dr. Richard Fudler

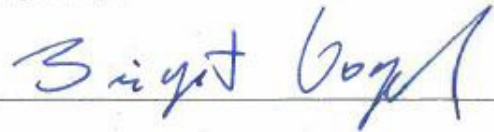
Title: Vizepräsident

Date: 16.08.2023

Place: Augsburg, Deutschland

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the  
Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy  
on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

State Institute for the Environment Baden-  
Württemberg (LUBW)

Signed by:

U. Mann

Name: Dr. Ulrich Mann

Title: President LUBW

Date: 10.08.23

Place: Kovlsuke

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:

Birgit Vogel

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service  
(DHMZ)

Signed by:



Name: BRANKA IVANČAN-PICEK

Title: DIRECTOR GENERAL

Date: 27.10.2023.

Place: ZAGREB, CROATIA

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:  
Hungarian Meteorological Service (OMSZ)

Signed by:



Name: Gábor Gyula Szanka

Title: President

Date: 12.12.2023

Place: Budapest, Hungary

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.12.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria



Name: László Hanyecz

Title: Financial Vice President

Date: 12.12.2023

Place: Budapest, Hungary

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management (OVF)

Signed by:



Name: Láng István István Láng  
főigazgató general director

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 2023 AUG. 30

Place: Országos Vízügyi Főigazgatóság  
1012 Budapest, Márvány utca 1/d

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

Romanian National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management (NIHWM)

Signed by:



Name: Nicolae Bărbieru

Title: Director

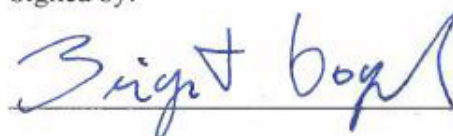
Date: 08.11.2023

Place: Bucharest, Romania

On behalf of:

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

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR


Date: 03.11.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria

In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:  
Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia  
(RHMSS)

Signed by:



Name: JUGOSLAV NIKOLIĆ

Title: DIRECTOR, RHMSS

Date: 29.09.2023.

Place: BELGRADE, SERBIA

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the  
Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria



In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:  
Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO)

Signed by:



Name: JOŠKO KNEZ

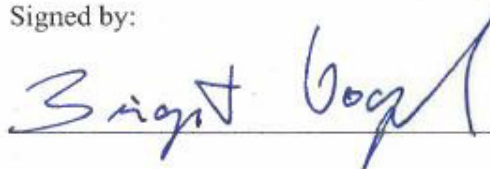
Title: DIRECTOR GENERAL

Date: 13.11.2023

Place: LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIJA

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the  
Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 07.11.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria





In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:  
Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute (SHMU)

On behalf of:  
International Commission for the Protection of the  
Danube River (ICPDR)

Signed by:

Signed by:

Dr. Anhel

Birgit Vogel

Name: RNDr. Martin Benko Ph.D.

Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Director General

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 22.08.2023

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Bratislava, Slovakia

Place: Vienna, Austria



In faith whereof the duly authorized representatives of ICPDR and Signatories have signed this Policy on behalf of their respective institutions (listed in the Annex A).

On behalf of:

Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Center (UHMC)

Signed by:



Name:

Dr. Myroslava Kulbida

Title:

Director UHMC

Date:

31/08/2023

Place:

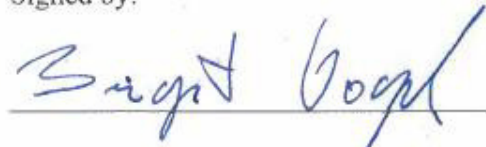
Kyiv, UKRAINE



On behalf of:

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

Signed by:



Name: Birgit Vogel

Title: Executive Secretary, ICPDR

Date: 05.07.2023

Place: Vienna, Austria