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Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure

*Supervision and Environmental Monitoring of River Training and
Dredging Works on Critical Sectors on the Danube River*
Contract n° 48-00-00093/2014-28



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EuropeAid	135642/IH/SER/RS
Contract No.	48-00-00093-2014-28
Programme	IPA 2013
Country	Republic of Serbia
Contracting Authority	Ministry of Finance – Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes
Final Beneficiary	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
End Recipient	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure – Directorate for Inland Waterways
Type of document	Meeting Minutes
Version	Final
Number of pages	13
Number of attachments	-
Prepared by	MG
Approved by	IM
Date:	08.10.2018

MINUTES OF THE FORUM MEETING

Date	21.09.2018
Duration	10:00-15:00
Meeting venue	MCTI - Directorate for Inland Waterways, Francuska 9, 11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia
Type of meeting	Stakeholders' Forum Meeting
Meeting No.	SHFM03

Duration	Topic	Responsible
10:00	Welcome note, introduction of participants, organizational issues	ER, all
10:10	General rules on organization and work of the Stakeholders' Forum	ER, all
10:15	Update of the list of members and observers	ER, all
10:20	Brief review of previous activities of the Stakeholders' Forum	ER, all
10:25	River training and dredging Works Programme	S&EMSC
10:35	First results of Environmental Monitoring Report during Works - Hydromorphology - Sediment and water quality	S&EMSC



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Duration	Topic	Responsible
	- Biology	
11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
12:00	First results of Environmental Monitoring Report during Works - Hydromorphology - Sediment and water quality - Biology	S&EMSC
12:10	Q&A	All
12:40	Catalogue of measures and learning system on the Austrian Danube (<i>Presentation of the member or observer of the Stakeholders' Forum</i>)	<i>viadonau</i>
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00	Presentation of basic geo data	ER
14:15	Procedure for the application of compensation measures and catalogue of compensation measures	ER
14:30	Visibility and external communication	ER, all
14:40	Next steps, action points list, next meeting	ER, all
14:45	AOB	All
14:50	Evaluation	All
15:00	Until the next meeting	

List of participants

No.	Name and Family Name	Organization
1.	Karim Kam	ACCIONA Ingeniería (S&EMSC)
2.	Natalia Garcia Estévez	ACCIONA Ingeniería (S&EMSC)
3.	Tanja Radović	ACCIONA Ingeniería (S&EMSC)
4.	Slobodan Zlatković	ACCIONA Ingeniería (S&EMSC)
5.	Miroslav Tomin	ACCIONA Ingeniería (S&EMSC)





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No.	Name and Family Name	Organization
6.	Zoran Rašić	ACCIONA Ingeniería (S&EMSC)
7.	Robert Tögel	viadonau
8.	Hélène Masliah-Gilkarov	ICPDR
9.	Dejan Trifunović	Danube Commission
10.	Đorđe Višić	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
11.	Lidija Andrijašević Jovanović	Ministry of Finance - CFCU
12.	Ljubomir Pejčić	United Anglers of Serbia
13.	Dušan Dobričić	Republic Water Directorate
14.	Laslo Galamboš	Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province
15.	Sava Simić	Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia
16.	Rastko Ajtić	Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia
17.	Daniela Stojković	Danube Civil Society Forum
18.	Milica Radić Kilibarda	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
19.	Milica Gačić	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
20.	Nikola Stošić	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
21.	Dijana Filipov	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
22.	Milica Novaković	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
23.	Luka Krivokuća	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
24.	Ivan Mitrović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
25.	Ljubiša Mihajlović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
26.	Jasna Muškatirović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)

Welcome and organizational issues

Mr. Mihajlović opened the meeting and welcomed present Forum participants. He emphasized two facts that underly this meeting. He said that this meeting was on a fortunate occasion because of the possibility to witness such a low water level happening once in 15 years and the conjunction of time with one project phase finished and another upcoming – the project works have finally started.

Mr. Mitrović also welcomed the members and observers, who briefly introduced themselves. He noticed that some new participants were present, which is the proof of the realization of the Forum voluntary accession.



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Before starting with the presentations schedule, he indicated that questions were welcomed at any time during the meeting and that all involved parties will be willing to answer them.

General rules on organization and work of the Stakeholders' Forum

The draft version of the General Rules on Organization and Work of the Forum was presented on the previous two meetings. Mr. Mitrović confirmed that changes suggested by the Forum members and observers were incorporated in the second draft version which is now available on the Forum website. No new comments were received from the last meeting. He pointed out again that if somebody has something to add to the document or has an alteration to propose within the text is free to send comments in written to the Chairperson, having in mind that the General Rules are not framed as the final version yet.

Q&A

Mr. Trifunović proposed to include other communication tools (like SKYPE) to the Rules communication section, which might be helpful for involving other international experts and representatives in the Forum work, as it was already proven as a method within the FAST DANUBE project in Romania. Mr. Mitrović replied that this is completely feasible and that it might be incorporated in the Article 5 of the General Rules of Organization and Work of the Forum as a new paragraph which could bring new participants.

Update of the list of members and observers

Mr. Mitrović told that a contact list of all Forum members and observers was prepared and published on the Forum website. The Chairperson apologized for some email being missing at the Contact list when sending the invitation for this meeting, but added that it had been corrected.

This list is still opened, having in mind this meeting participants and the potential new ones. It will be updated and prepared for the Forum website after this meeting. The aim is to make all Forum members and observers' activities as much transparent as possible.

The Chairperson noted that also in the coming period members and observers of the Forum can make proposals for involving other international and national institutions and NGOs in the work of the Forum, as during the previous period.

Brief review of previous activities of the Stakeholders' Forum

Ms. Radić Kilbarda gave a concise overview of the Forum activities up to the date. Two meetings were held, in March and in May. Ms. Radić Kilbarda underlined the two-phase character of the project – the documentation preparation phase and the implementation phase which we are participating now. She said that all materials from the previous Forum work, even from the preparation phase can be found on the official Forum web page: <http://www.plovput.rs/forum-zainteresovanih-strana>.

She briefly presented the agendas from the first two meetings as the outcomings for the next phases. The main topic of those two meetings was the Environmental Monitoring Results before Works, which results were conditional for the commencement of the Works execution, among other relevant issues. The S&EM experts presented the outputs of biology, sediment and water quality and hydromorphology monitoring.



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Ms. Radić Kilibarda also stressed the importance of application of compensation measures which possibility of implementation was predicted under this project.

Afterwards she introduced the MEETET initiative to the participants. MEETET is a joint initiative of three commissions (the European Commission, the Danube Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River) aimed at improving the capacities of institutions from the Danube basin countries for integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the field of inland waterways. Under this initiative thematic trainings are organized, and the second one was held in Belgrade, in Plovput's premises and was especially useful for improving the stakeholder management and involvement processes by the Project End Recipient and Forum organizer – Plovput.

River training and dredging Works Programme

Programme and Project Implementation Schedule was presented at the second Forum meeting in short lines. Mr. Kam prepared a new presentation for this meeting having in mind that there were some modification within the Works Programme, since the start of the Works was delayed for two months, relative to the completion of all preparatory works.

Mr. Kam introduced the documentation basis of the Works Programme and overviewed the list of the Engineers Requirements, specified within the Technical Specification. All requirements were realized by the time of this meeting.

River training structures will be executed on three sectors and dredging works on five. According to the adopted PPIS first the river structures will be constructed and those works will start at the critical sector Futog.

Concerning the construction site preparation, the WKSC needs to prepare the construction material (geotextile, rock material), loading and unloading places, plants, personal. For the critical sector Futog, for the first structure – detached groyne, the WKSC has provided rock material, geotextile, bathymetric survey, the Method Statement, which were all approved by the S&EMSC who issued the Notice of Approval of the works at the critical sector Futog on August 21th. Until this moment the Works Contractor has commenced with cleaning the riverbed, placing the geotextile and overlaying the stone material base layer and the advancement was shown on longitudinal profiles of the structure.

Q&A

Mr. Trifunović asked how the delay in execution of the works will be managed and how the WKSC will compensate the time. As Mr. Tomin said this delay was a consequence of many issues that overpassed the proposed solutions from the project preparation phase – the hydrographic measurement was repeated, the Method Statement needed to be adjusted, as well as the adopted Programme and Project Implementation Schedule Gantt Chart. New hydrographic surveys showed major changes of the riverbed and a progressed erosion process, which has as an effect the increase of material quantities for the structures construction. New quantities of geotextile were calculated as well as new dimensions of the base layers made of rock stones 6/15 cm. Mr. Kam added that the WKSC has used only one set of the equipment for placing this materials until now, but it was accorded on the project level that he will use the rest of provided equipment from the Engineer's Requirements so the execution could be more efficient. The monitoring of the hydrographic state will be continuous in order to enable a timely reaction to riverbed changes.

Within this meeting section Ms. Radović has presented the status of the environmental component of the Works Contract. As the only works being performed now are located at Futog, she presented the execution location and the plants at the construction site. Some findings on the site regarding the



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environmental issues were also elaborated. Some positive environmental measures as the covered conveyor on the loading barge were shown, but Ms. Radović also stated the need for improvement of more efficient organization and management of waste, oil, mechanical drive and said that if all the proposed measures doesn't result, a technical barrier for localization of oil stain, as the major problem, will be proposed. After her official objections on this issues, the WKSC has performed some activities to alleviate the rmerked issues and the positive effects were presented at this meeting (the working area nad the mechanical drive cleaned, the waste material stored adequately, separately, all barrels are secured etc.). Although some organizational and technical modifications were performed by the WKSC, the S&EMSC will carefully supervise his upcoming activities.

First results of Environmental Monitoring Report during Works

– Hydromorphology

Morphology is dealing with sediment and bedload transportation, water levels and discharges. Mr. Rašić, the Hydraulic Expert on behalf of the S&EMSC, presented the general flow conditions. The already existing structures on this Danube stretch were described as an introduction for the structures planned under this project. As the critical sector Futog is in the focus now, the dynamicity of its hydromorphological status was presented through layouts for the period 2013-2018. Some surveying results were presented on charts and profiles in order to differ the existence of shallow and deep water sections. The official data from the RHMS was used (for the guding stations Backa Palanka and Novi Sad) and will be used later on for the hydromorphological analysis, as well as the data from the additional gauging stations implemented under this project.

The presentation was mainly oriented to show the recent changes of the riverbed, based on the results of the hydrographic surveys from May and July 2018 done by Plovput. The erosion process is immanent, but because of the lack official data it cannot be exactly determined what is an effect of natural processes and what was a dredging consequence. The position and the morphology of the planned detached groyne and chevron was presented along with the results of the zero status survey. The dredging field was also presented and based on the performed analysis the erosion rate of 1.6 m was identified.

Q&A

Mr. Galamboš from the Intitute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province asked about the methodology for low navigational level determination, on which basis the calculations on the erosion/sedimentation process was calculated and it was explained that it is done for a 30-years period with the probability of 94% according to the official methodology established by the Danube Commission.

Also, Mr. Galamboš informed the participants that a conservation study for Danube islands is being prepared by the Institute and that three islands within the Project area – Neštin, Susek and Mačkov sprud are covered by that study. Mr. Rašić concluded that the dredging and river training works will not make significant changes regarding this islands, having in mind they are oriented to the flowing clearance.

– Sediment and water quality

The Chemical Expert Ms. Radović reported the progress of environmental monitoring of sediment and water quality. She repeated that there are 3 phases of monitoring - the baseline monitoring has been finished as the precondition for the start of works and all obtained results were compared to the existing official data for the 10-years period (the EIA study, SEPA data etc.).



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The same approach will be maintained for the monitoring during works, for which only one monitoring campaign was performed until now.

She showed the water quality results on general parameters, oxygen regime, nutrients, salinity, metals, microbiological parameters, priority and priority hazardous substances, that were in the same way during the baseline survey. There were some deviation relative to the primary data, but no major exceptions were noticed. A high concentration of mercury is recorded at the critical sector Futog, but that would require additional research within and out of the extent of this Project. These results were part of a regular sampling analysis, but additional and more specific local monitoring will be performed in case of necessity and also in case of significant non-compliance with the official monitoring data.

Same monitoring procedure is being performed for sediment quality checks. Parameters are being monitored on and off site, by the officially approved and certified laboratory. Ms. Radović stated that the baseline results are generally similar for all six critical sectors and that is remained during the first campaign during works. All obtained results are below target values and most of the parameters were not even detected.

Q&A

As a follow-up of this monitoring results, Mr. Trifunović ascertained that this Project was very good qualified at the 9th Joint Statement meeting in Vienna and that there is a potential for this project to be a best practice project in the Danube Region. Ms. Masliah-Gilkarov also informed the Forum members and observers that there is a Joint Danube Survey established, which purpose is to produce data on monitoring practices and national monitoring procedures. The next Survey activity will be performed in 2019, as it is performed every six years and it will be fully prepared in terms of visibility and all countries involved will now have more responsibilities to perform their own monitoring.

– Biology

Mr. Zlatković introduced the first results of the biological monitoring during works at all critical sectors. The focus was on birds and plants, because of the migrating and vegetation periods. Common birds were recorded at Futog, some mostly frequent species were dominant but the special attention was put on specific species for this area. Because of the low water level there are some sandy islands, which are suitable for birds (Preliv, Beška, Čortanovci). Forest plant species were monitored. Similar plant species are recorded at all sectors. Mussel individuals were removed from sediment at the sector Futog, where there were no mussels on the bank, while on the sectors Beška, Čortanovci and Susek mussels were recorded in large number in the sand or mud on the bank.

During the next monitoring period the effects on herbaceous plants along banks (primarily *Limosella aquatica*), macrophyte vegetation, development of vegetation, riparian areas, birds populations, mussels population (primarily genus *Unio*), fish population (primarily *Acipenser ruthenus*), protected areas and ecological network, phytoplankton (qualitative and quantitative analysis) will be monitored. The birds will leave in 10-15 days depending on the climate conditions, so their numbering will be timely limited. The next monitoring phase will be performed at the end of September or the beginning of October. Primarily the species determined in the ToR will be monitored. Some areas of ecological network will be monitored, especially the most important protected area on this stretch - Koviljsko-petrovaradinski rit. All sectors results will be reported.

Catalogue of measures and learning system on the Austrian Danube (*Presentation of the member or observer of the Stakeholders' Forum*)



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Mr. Tögel presented the Austrian Danube area and gave a brief overview of the business activity of viadonau and the project East of Vienna. The Project is covering a stretch of 48 km, involving Natura 2000 habitats, natural parks and Natura 2000 Birds Directive. This is an integrated project approach with 6 pilot projects, which implementation is prioritized – priority 1 will be implemented until 2022, and priority 2 until 2030. The project will influence the riverbed degradation. The planned measures include: bedload addition, bedload relocation, bedload trapa and addition of gravel (gravel deposition). In that sense the dredging and river training activities within the project were presented, supported with biotic and abiotic monitoring, as a manner to alleviate the free flowing section.

Under this project a Catalogue of Compensation measures was prepared, with several measures descriptions, such as side arms reconnection within the LIFE project and the meeting participants had a chance to take a look of it. Catalogue of measures is established as a learning system and a continuous process, with the need of flexibility to react to the river changes, need to have a scientific support, flexibility of budget, legal and time framework. The project is focused on user oriented basic research. The Stakeholder Forum was established in 2012, and in 2017 the Stakeholders Forum for the Catalogue of Measures.

Q&A

Mr. Trifunović asked how this project and the Catalogue of measures can be linked to the Water Framework Directive - WFD. Mr. Tögel answered that the ecological status during the project implementation is still good and that not all measures refer to the compensation measures described in the Water Framework Directive, since they are measures of the project. Even, this project's objectives were formulated before the adoption of the Directive but are now corresponding to the Directive statements.

Mr. Trifunović was wondering also about the jurisdiction of institutions when applying WFD in Austria and Mr. Tögel explained that there is no a unique institution bearing with waterway and ecological issues, but that within this project a compromise between these two areas is a goal. In the specific case of application of the WFD competent institution is the Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism.

Presentation of basic geo data

The basic geo data was presented by Mr. Stošić. The basic geo data .kml file was an action point of the Forum organizers. The first draft was presented on the previous meeting, so at the beginning Mr. Stošić made an overview of the already existing data in the previously presented kml file. The file was updated before this meeting with new information about the additional gauging station set under this project in July and the location and position of the construction area at the Futog critical sector and the two structures within it. After the interactive once-over of the file, he displayed the structure of the hydrometeorological data from the newly established project gauging stations, with can be accessed via the link: <http://www.meteos.rs/user/agromah/dunav.php>. The link will be available on the official Forum web page after the meeting, as well as the updated .kml file. If the Forum members and observers have a suggestion on some other content to be included within the .kml basic geo data file, they can send it to the Chairperson via email or propose it during meetings, since the file will be continuously updated.

Procedure for the application of compensation measures and catalogue of compensation measures

Ms. Gačić brought up the compensation measures planning and application procedure to Forum participants. She elaborated the premises and procedure steps needed to be fulfilled in order to



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propose and submit for approval a compensation measure. This presentation, as well as the compensation measures presentation from the previous meeting, was made so the Forum members and observers could make a difference between the mitigation measures already included in the Project and the compensation measures non predictable before the start of the works execution. The compensation measures are therefore very important for Forum participants letting them free space for involvement in the decision making process regarding this issue. Ms. Gačić informed the Meeting participants about the possibility for their suggestions about the compensation measures and briefly described the time, spatial and budget framework for compensation measures application using the Proposla Form prepared by the End Recipient. Having in mind different compensation measure types, she also announced the intention of Plovput to prepare a Catalog of compensation measures, where the Forum participants can contribute with their comments and suggestions too. At the end of her presentation, she underlined that the focus of the Project and the Forum should be on the compensation measures achievable within the Project time scope, although some other compensation measures could also be applied after the end of the Project, from some other financial sources and with other time requirements.

The Proposal Form draft will be sent along with the draft Meeting Minutes and uploaded on the Forum web page so the Forum participants could make some alternations. All proposals could be send by email to the Chairperson or a separate mailing list could be established for this purposes.

Q&A

Mr. Trifunović asked if all compensation measures need to be applied and paid during the project, which was confirmed by Mr. Mitrović, who said that the main subject of these compensation measures should be the period of works execution having in mind the extensive procedure for its proposal and implementation and the time it will require.

Visibility and external communication

Regarding the Project visibility, Ms. Masliah-Gilkarov commented that there are many ways of communication, both internally within the Project and externally. The main is the web page, which was already prepared by Plovput. Besides, she added that the End Recipient has prepared an article about this project and Forum activities, which she will be glad to published in the official magazine of the ICPDR - Danube Watch and that all the performed activities prove a fully transparent project.

Ms. Gačić emphasized the role of the data available at the Forum web page, which will be updated after every new activity completion, and, of course, after each Forum meeting. She underlined that all data is bilingual, in English and Serbian language, and that all materials will be prepared in both versions until the end of the project, but that also the materials from the previous work of the Forum (during the project preparatory phase) are stored on the same web page, in both versions. She directed the participants to the official Plovput web page too, where news, newsletters and other information about the project can be found. The web statistics about the Forum web page will be prepared on a monthly basis as a way to monitor the visibility effects of this Project activities.

Next steps

Mr. Mitrović announced that the next Forum meeting will be on site, on Futog and that it is desirable to be during November, having in mind the weather conditions. November 9th was proposed and accepted by all participants. There will be strict instructions on preparation and registration for the meeting, taking into account the special conditions of its performance. The WKSC need to contribute the local waterborn vessel for the purpose of the Stakeholders' Forum according to the ToR.



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Q&A

At the end Mr. Trifunović linked the implementation of this and similar projects with the Water Framework Directive, in particular Article 4.7, which deals with the exceptions in the implementation of infrastructure projects. This relations varies among countries. He explained that recently the EIB-JASPERS technical team has established a self-evaluation tool, which will be an added value for these projects. The idea is to implement this process as an additional activity within this project during 2019. Mr. Mitrović said that Forum framework will be used to make the self assessment, so not only Plovput will be included in this process. He concluded that when the document is finalized, it will put into the Forum practice.

Evaluation

Concluding the meeting, all participants filled in the evaluation sheets in order to record performance indicators of the second Forum meeting.

Until the next meeting

Mr. Mitrović thanked also participants for their active involvement during the meeting and reminded that all ideas for the next Forum activities are welcomed and that proposals should be made in a timely manner.



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Action List

Action point	Action	Deadline	Responsible
SHFM03-01	Commenting the SHFM03 Meeting Minutes	08.10.2018	All
SHFM03-02	Organize the Stakeholders' Meeting No. 4	09.11.2018	ER, S&EMSC
SHFM03-03	Provide the updated contact list on the official Forum web page	01.10.2018	ER
SHFM03-04	Publish the basic geoinformation file on the Forum web page (updated version)	24.09.2018	ER
SHFM03-05	Commenting of the draft Compensation Measure Proposal Form	12.10.2018	All
SHFM03-06	Send proposals for the related presentations by the Forum participants	26.10.2018	All
SHFM03-07	Send proposals for compensation measures to be included in the Catalog	No deadline defined	All
SHFM03-08	Submit proposals for the new members of the Forum	No deadline defined	All
SHFM03-09	Invite relevant NGOs and other organizations to be part of the Forum	Upon the agreement on the list of organizations	ER



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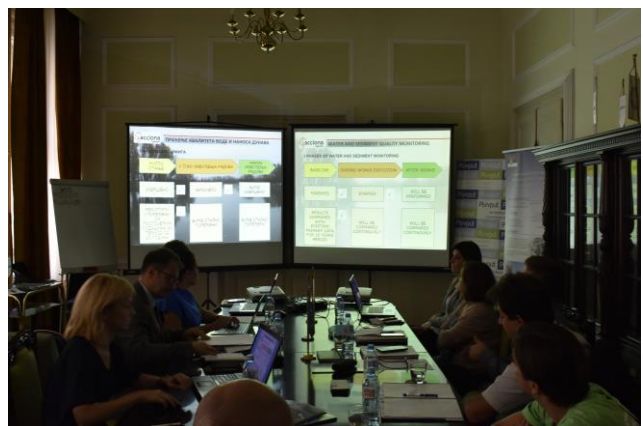
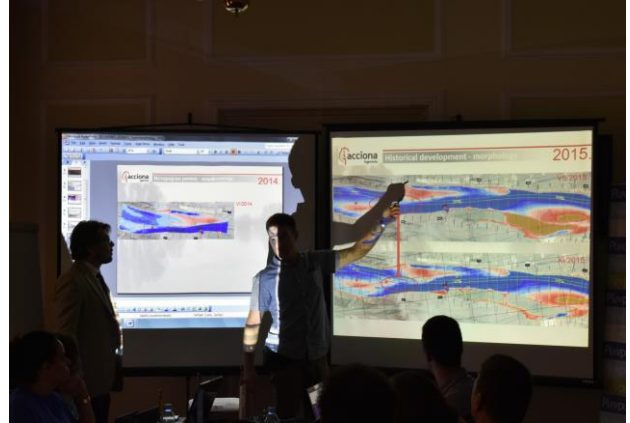
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List of Abbreviations

Abbr.	Description
CFCU	MFIN - Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes
EMRbW	Environmental Monitoring Report before Works
ER	End Recipient (MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways)
MCTI	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
MFIN	Ministry of Finance
MMs	Meeting Minutes
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
PC	Public Company
PPIS	Programme and Project Implementation Schedule
PWMC	Public Water Management Company
RHMZ	Republic Hydrometeorological Service of Serbia
SEPA	Serbian Environmental Protection Agency
S&EM	Supervision and Environmental Monitoring
S&EMSC	Supervision and Environmental Monitoring Service Contractor
SHF	Stakeholders' Forum
SHFM	Stakeholders' Forum meeting
ToR	Terms of Reference
WKSC	Works Contractor