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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
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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
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Prepared by	MG
Approved by	IM
Date:	22.04.2018

MINUTES OF THE FORUM MEETING

Date	05.04.2019
Duration	10:00-16:00
Meeting venue	Principle Office, Ribnjak donji put, 21000 Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia
Type of meeting	Stakeholders' Forum Meeting
Meeting No.	SHFM05

Duration	Topic	Responsible
08:00	<i>Transport from Belgrade to Novi Sad</i>	WKSC, S&EMSC, ER
10:00	Welcome note, introduction of participants, organizational issues	ER, all
10:05	General rules on organization and work of the Stakeholders' Forum	ER, all
10:10	Update of the list of members and observers	ER, all
10:15	Brief review of previous activities of the Stakeholders' Forum	ER, all
10:20	River training and dredging Works Programme	S&EMSC
10:30	New results of Environmental Monitoring during Works - Hydromorphology - Sediment and water quality	S&EMSC



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Duration	Topic	Responsible
	- Biology	
10:50	Q&A	All
11:00	Presentation of the member or observer of the Stakeholders' Forum - Presentation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River - Presentation of the Institute for Multidisciplinary Research	ICPDR IMSI
11:20	Status of proposals for the application of compensation measures and catalogue of compensation measures	ER, PZZP
11:30	Visibility and external communication	ER, all
11:40	Next steps, action points list, next meeting	ER, all
11:50	AOB	All
11:55	Evaluation	All
12:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
12:30	Visit to the Futog construction site	WKSC, All
14:45	Wrap-up of the visit to the Futog construction site	All
15:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
16:00	<i>Transport from Novi Sad to Belgrade</i>	WKSC, S&EMSC, ER

List of participants

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





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No.	Name and Family Name	Organization
7.	Georg Rast	WWF
8.	Dejan Trifunović	Danube Commission
9.	Andreas Bäck	viadonau
10.	Helene Masliah-Gilkarov	ICPDR
11.	Ivana Korn Varga	WWF Adria
12.	Branka Španiček	WWF Adria
13.	Đorđe Višić	Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure
14.	Lidija Andrijašević Jovanović	Ministry of Finance - CFCU
15.	Ljiljana Ilić	Ministry of Finance - CFCU
16.	Miloš Repić	Ministry of Finance - CFCU
17.	Nikola Ružić	Ministry of Finance - CFCU
18.	Branko Ratković	Ministry of Finance - CFCU
19.	Laslo Galamboš	Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province
20.	Gordana Špegar	MAFWM – Republic Water Directorate
21.	Mirjana Lendhardt	Institute for Multidisciplinary Research
22.	Zoran Gačić	Institute for Multidisciplinary Research
23.	Sava Simić	Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia
24.	Milica Gačić	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
25.	Milivoj Vasiljević	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
26.	Magdalina Popović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
27.	Ivan Mitrović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
28.	Ljubiša Mihajlović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)
29.	Jasna Muškatirović	MCTI – Directorate for Inland Waterways – Plovput (ER)

Welcome and organizational issues

Mr. Mitrović opened the fifth meeting of the Forum and welcomed the members and observers, who briefly introduced themselves. New participants from two institutions were present – WWF Adria and the Institute for Multidisciplinary researche.



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The organizational issues were tackled at the beginning and it was announced that the planned site visit might be postponed because of the strong wind, as it was recommended by the Project Site Engineer.

Summarizing this introductory part, Mr. Mitrović also asked all Forum participants to stick with the deadlines defined for registration for all of the upcoming Forum meetings.

General rules on organization and work of the Stakeholders' Forum

No new comments were received from the last meeting, so the general rules remain the same.

Update of the list of members and observers

Mr. Mitrović told that a contact list of all Forum members and observers is published on the Forum website and it is going to be updated after each meeting. This list is still opened, having in mind participants of this meeting and the potential new ones. The aim is to make all Forum members and observers' activities as much transparent as possible.

Brief review of previous activities of the Stakeholders' Forum

Ms. Gačić made a brief overview of the previous activities of the Stakeholders' Forum. She stated that the first two meetings, held in March and May 2018, focused the Environmental Monitoring Report before Works and that the September and November meetings introduced the construction phase of the Project. During those meetings the S&EMSC team presented the up-to-date environmental monitoring results and the Works Programme developments, familiarizing the Forum members and observers with the current status of the Project implementation. Ms. Gačić stated that the meetings also contained the part of member/observer's presentation, which was a real supplement to the basic Forum activities and that it would be the case of the SHFM05 too.

River training and dredging Works Programme

Mr. Tomin briefly presented the Programme and Project Implementation Schedule. This was elaborated as the general status of the Project, considered through three periods: before the SHFM04, between the SHFM04 and this SHFM05 and the review of expected activities.

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

The completion of the Engineer's requirements and site preparation lead to the construction works that had started on August 21st. Mr. Tomin presented the scope of the works on the detached groyne at the critical sector Futog from July 2018 to February 2019 with the list of all relevant activities. The construction of the groyne was finished and the taking over procedure is in progress. The same was prepared for the works on the Futog chevron and Čortanovci sills, which construction is ongoing. Some photos from all construction sites were shown.

Regarding the upcoming activities, the completion of works on chevron was itemed, including the use permits and taking over activities, which mark the commencement of the Defect Notification Period of



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the structures. Construction phase for the sills at the critical sector Čortanovci and preparatory activities for another chevron – on the Preliv sector, as well as the environmental monitoring during and after works, are also within the next months plan.

Q&A

Mr. Rast asked how the riverbed changes have affected the construction works and Mr. Tomin replied that the riverbed erosion has deepened the riverbed and increased the material volume, but that it is expected that the Preliv sector will be more stable so the overall volume balance might be kept.

Mr. Trifunović underlined on behalf of the Danube Commission the contractual obligations of parallel works on two sectors and the provision of all project works within the defined time framework.

New results of Environmental Monitoring Report during Works

– Hydromorphology

Mr. Rašić, the Hydraulic Expert on behalf of the S&EMSC, presented the general flow conditions at the critical sector Futog, pointing both morphological and hydrological issues. Layouts from 2018 done by Plovput were addressed. Since no additional hydromorphological surveys were executed since the last SHFM and will be performed after the completion of the construction works on the chevron, Mr Rašić focused on the hydrological conditions. The monitoring data of the RHMS gauging stations Bačka Palanka and Novi Sad was displayed for the past three months. This data will be used later on for the hydromorphological analysis, as well as the data from the additional gauging stations implemented under this project. Since the data from the new six gauging stations established for this Project is available at the link: <http://www.meteos.rs/user/agromah/dunav.php> (existing at the official Forum web page too), the S&EMSC Hydrological Expert presented the actual hydrological status for the Futog gauging station.

Q&A

Mr. Rast asked up to which water level the works can be performed and Mr. Rašić answered that the level is dependent to the critical sector referred and that it is defined with the Contractor for each case separately.

Ms. Špegar was wondering which parameters are being monitored through the gauging stations established within the Project and if the gauging stations will be still in function upon the completion of the Project. Mr. Rašić has shown the structure of the parameters table available at: <http://www.meteos.rs/user/agromah/dunav.php>. Mr. Mitrović added there is no legal obligation to hand over these gauging stations to the RHMS. Having in mind that not only hydrological data is collected, but also meteorological, these stations are and will be of great significance for the effective and proactive preparation and construction activities at all sectors and will be complementary to the official RHMS data as compatible.

– Sediment and water quality

The progress of environmental monitoring of sediment and water quality was conveyed by the Chemical Expert Ms. Radović. 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 is maintained for the monitoring during works, for which three regular analyses were performed until now (in September and November 2018 and February 2019). The additional surveys were planned only for dredging works, but since the S&EM team wants to have a continuous monitoring, additional surveys were done for the construction works too.

Ms. Radović presented the general plan for monitoring for the sector Futog. She also showed the results of the short water quality analysis on temperature, suspended matters and mineral oils for 4 sampling points on the construction sites of the detached groyne and chevron, at the critical sector Futog (performed in October 2018, February and March 2019). As could be seen, all the results correspond to the 1st class of water quality.

Q&A

Mr. Rast questioned if some results emerged to be problematic during some of the analysis and Ms. Radović stated that in effect the suspended matters and some microbiological parameters were slightly oscillating and that downstream of the construction sites a high concentration of mercury was noticed but that this should be part of a separate research, as mentioned at the previous meetings too. Mr. Galamboš, Ms. Lenhardt, Mr. Back and Mr. Rast were discussing about the potential causes of the exceeding concentration of mercury, on which Mr. Mitrovic and Ms. Radovic concluded that that was detected in only one sample, during one of the performed analysis and that during the project preparation phase such samples have not been recorded.

– Biology

The Biological Expert Mr. Zlatković presented the new results of the biological monitoring during works. He stated that the biological monitoring aspects covered were: phytoplankton, mussels, birds, fishes, macrovegetation, plants, development of vegetation, riparian areas and protected areas and the ecological network. The main conclusion was that all the recorded species are resident for this critical sector and common species of the Danube, which is usual having in mind the period of the year we are dealing with.

Mr. Zlatković claimed that the existing populations and habitats are not affected by the works because of the enough distance of the construction site which was respected by the WKSC. The low water period has influenced the biological conditions, which was obvious from the recorded mussel samples.

Regarding the species defined in the Terms of Reference of the Project, one individual of the *Unio* species was found during the monitoring campaign in February 2019 (and one before, in December 2018), and no individuals of other species in focus were recorded.

Q&A

Mr. Rast was interested in the volume of chlorophyll detected for phytoplankton and it was explained that the presented values are basically regular for this period of the year. Mr. Galamboš added that the results could be compared to the results of the Joint Danube Survey for the previous year.

The colleagues from WWF Adria opened a discussion about the methodology related to the fish monitoring and it was again proposed to consider the methodology suggested by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province, that was already submitted to the S&EMSC.



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Presentation of the member or observer of the Stakeholders' Forum

- Presentation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River

Ms. Masliah-Gilkarov from ICPDR presented the main activities of this organization. She emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary cooperation and cross-sectoral activities and announced that the Joint Danube Survey campaign has started. The main event will be held on the 27th June 2019 in Budapest and that the sampling sites in Serbia as well as for the other countries involved can be found via the official Joint Danube Survey website.

The article prepared about this project by the End Recipient of the Project (Plovput) was published in the latest edition of the Danube Watch magazine, issued by ICPDR. It was a great opportunity to show the stakeholders engagement within this project as an example at the international level. The article will be available at the Danube Watch web page, but also at the official Stakeholders' Forum web page.

- Presentation of the Institute for Multidisciplinary Research

The Institute for Multidisciplinary Research is the new member of the Forum. Therefore, Ms. Lendhardt as the representative intended to make a presentation of the institute and their ongoing projects. The MEASURES project (under the Interreg programme) was presented in short lines, in correlation with the environmental aspects of the "Supervision and Environmental Monitoring of River Training and Dredging Works on Critical Sectors on the Danube River".

Q&A

Upcoming events relevant for the present stakeholders were announced by Ms. Masliah-Gilkarov, Mr. Trifunović and Ms. Špegar.

Status of proposals for the application of compensation measures and catalogue of compensation measures

The first proposal of the compensation measures was presented during the SHFM05 by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province (PZZP). Mr. Galamboš framed several areas that can be elaborated as technical compensation measures proposal by the S&EM team, following the compensation measures proposal procedure defined within the project Terms of Reference. In the Futog area Rakovači Dunavac sidearm and channels and ponds on Mačkov sprud river island are proposed to be revitalized, compensating the disturbances made especially for fishes by the past and ongoing antropogenic activities as a cumulative effect. Dredging and modeling of sediment deposits at Rakovački Dunavac and improving of water regime and flooding of important spawning and feeding grounds on Mačkov sprud were introduced by PZZP as possible.

Dredging activities and embankment structures were proposed for the Beška sector too (Gardinovački Dunavac sidearm), but the effectiveness of this option should be elaborated and reviewed in line with the progress of the works defined for Beška sector and their impact on the environment.

Q&A

Mr. Rast concluded that these ideas are a good start point, but that all positive and negative impacts should be evaluated in order to make a real improvement.



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Visibility and external communication

Regarding the visibility effects of the Project, Mr. Mitrović 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. He directed the participants to the official Plovput website, where the Forum web page is hosted (<http://www.plovput.rs/forum-zainteresovanih-strana>).

In addition to the received up-to-date project information and in relation to those, the participants got booklets of the recently completed project „Integration of Navigation Monitoring System on the Danube River“, as also part of the current activities of the End Recipient.

Next steps

The date for the next meeting was proposed at the end of the SHFM05. In order to enable an effective site visit, better weather and water level conditions should be waited. For that reason, the sixth Forum meeting will be held on the 19th of July 2019.

Evaluation

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

Until the next meeting

Mr. Mitrović thanked all participants for their active involvement during the meeting and reminded that all ideas for the next Forum activities are welcomed.

Visit to the Futog construction site

As announced at the beginning of the SHFM05, the site visit to the construction sites at the Futog critical sector was canceled, but the participants had the opportunity to observe the sites location and the ongoing works on the chevron from the shore, where the Site Engineer explained the scope of the works and the project design for both detached groyne and chevron at the critical sector Futog.



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Action List

Action point	Action	Deadline	Responsible
SHFM05-01	Commenting the SHFM05 Meeting Minutes	22.04.2019	All
SHFM05-02	Organize the Stakeholders' Meeting No. 6	19.07.2019	ER, S&EMSC
SHFM05-03	Provide the updated contact list on the official Forum web page	19.04.2019	ER
SHFM05-04	Submit the Intermediate Report 02 summary	26.04.2019	S&EMSC
SHFM05-05	Distribution of the Intermediate Report 02 summary	After the submission by the S&EMSC	ER
SHFM05-06	Sending comments and requests regarding the Intermediate Report summary	Two weeks upon the distribution (to be announced)	Forum members and observers
SHFM05-07	Send proposals for the related presentations by the Forum participants	11.07.2019	All
SHFM05-08	Send proposals for compensation measures to be included in the Catalog	No deadline defined	All
SHFM05-09	Submit proposals for the new members of the Forum	No deadline defined	All
SHFM05-10	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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Photos





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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)
MAFWM	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
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