

Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin

Part One

Ádám Podolcsák
External Consultant

Foreword

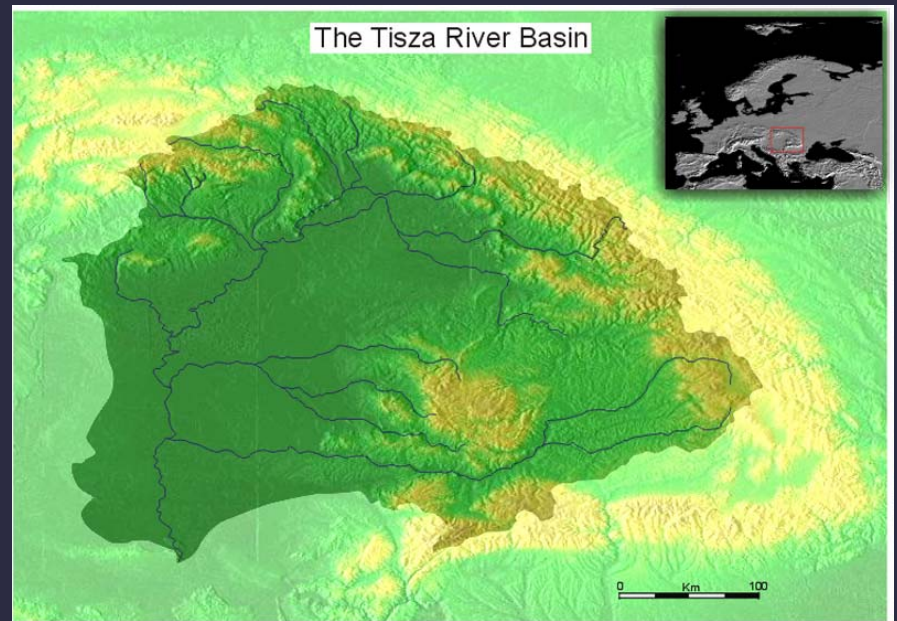
- This presentation reflects a single consultant's own understanding
- It is intended to provide a baseline for disputes
- Therefore:
 - Supplementary comments are required
 - Certain aspects should have more emphases
- Comments, critics are warmly welcome

Table of Contents

- Approaching the Tisza Basin
- Goal of this Initiative
- History
- Principles
- Institutional Background - RETC
- Developing Strategies – Part Two

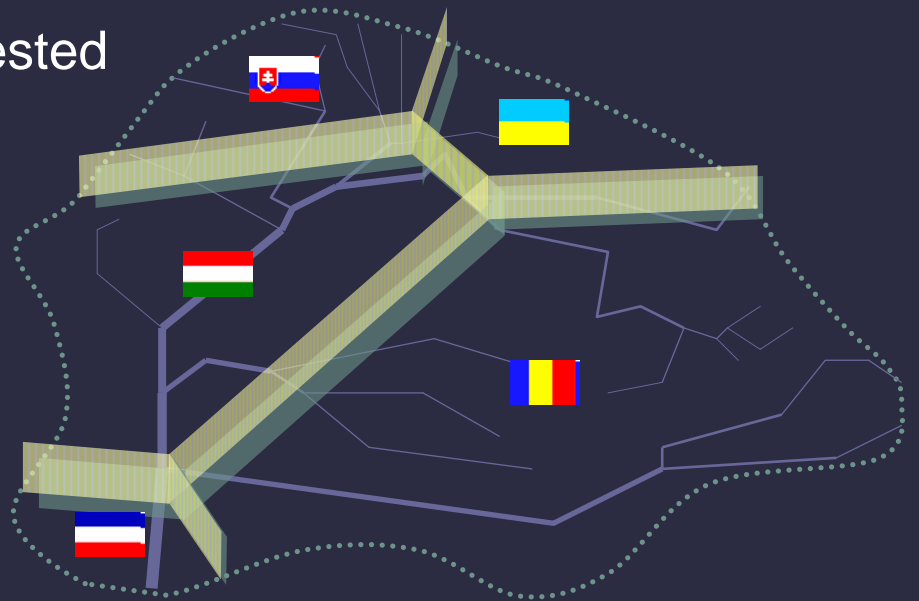
Approaching the Tisza Basin

- General facts
 - Area: 154039 Km²
 - Population: ~15 million
 - Hungary: ~4 million
 - Romania: ~6 million
 - Serbia: ~2 million
 - Slovakia: ~2 million
 - Ukraine: ~1 million
 - settlements: ~6800
 - Hungary: 1 200
 - Romania: 4 500
 - Serbia: 150
 - Slovakia: 500
 - Ukraine: 500



Approaching the Tisza Basin

- Separation
 - Five Countries are interested
 - H, RO, S&M, SK, UA
 - Seven border segments
 - Some 1200 km
 - Issues are fragmented
 - By countries
 - By border segments
 - By sectors
 - Ad hoc, indirect, slow,..
 - Horizontal communication
 - Horizontal cooperation



Approaching the Tisza Basin

- Togetherness
 - Common History
 - Economic, politic, ..
 - Living relations
 - Institutional
 - Private
 - Cultural Heritage
 - work, custom, arts, ..
 - Ethnical diversity
 - More than 10 ethnics



Approaching the Tisza Basin

- Interdependence
 - Common treats
 - Flooding
 - Ecological disaster
 - Poverty
 - Migration
 - Etc.
 - Common opportunities in:
 - Political Integration
 - Economic Transition
 - Technology transfer
 - Transportation
 - Etc.



Goal

- ✿ The goal of the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin is:

Improving living conditions in the Tisza Basin driven by cooperation and access to information related to shared space

History of this Initiative

1992 The initial idea occurred

1995- Establishing partner relations

2000 1st International Forum

Partnership agreement of Local Authorities

2001 Hungarian PMO declares their support

2001 2nd International Forum

Agreement on Local Offices and their financing

2003 Searching for EU partners

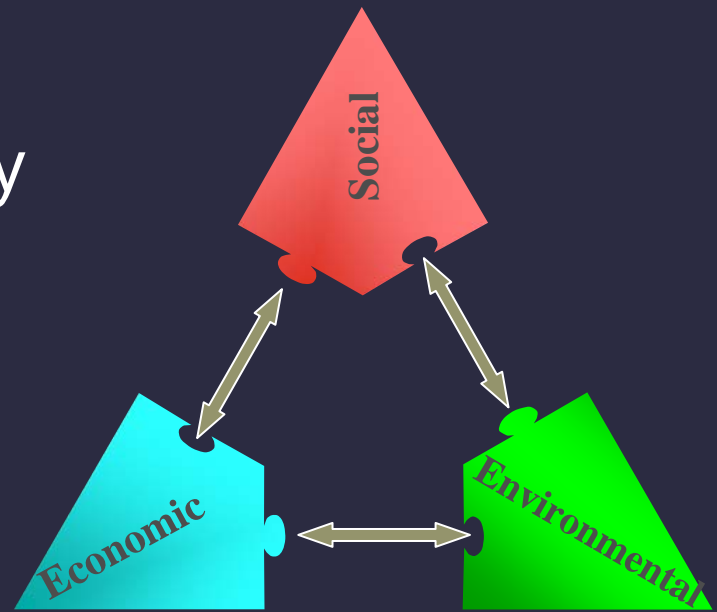
2003- Workshops: Planning Implementation

Principles

- Holistic approach covering Environmental, Economic and Social aspects as the three components of the Sustainable Development
- Based on cross-border cooperation
- Well established partnership arrangement
- New services to be established based on PPP – Public Private Partnership
- Subsidiarity with a special attention to NUTS4/5 levels
- Considering the Information Society concept

Holistic approach

- Standard in sustainable development
- Several particular issues of Tisza Basin are already tackled, but not in a broader context
- Consequence: Not competing just complementing



Partnership

- Tackling common problems needs partnership
- Trans-border cooperation to be encouraged
- Local initiatives are the starting point and local bodies should receive funds
- Projects should be developed and managed locally
- Consequence: Close node points to partners needed

PPP – Public Private Partnership

- Provides more transparency
- Establishes new institution more flexible
- Gives governments more freedom
- Balances multilateral cooperations
- Consequence: A public benefit organisation should undertake the implementation and operation

Subsidiarity

- „... decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen..” *Glossary Inforegio*
- After having adopted this concept by the democratization of the 90s it strengthened Local Authorities
- Consequence: Information services are needed that support decision making structure

Information Society Concept

Quotes from the '97 list of *the Information Society*:

- .. electronic data interchange and electronic commerce among businesses globally,
- .. to „outsource” portions of their information processing to different countries around the world, creating transborder data flow issues for the countries involved and increasing the rapidity with which jobs migrate globally,
- .. baseline information services or fees-for-all-services,
- the role of place and space in visions and practice of digital libraries and electronic forums,

Institutional Background

1997-2000

Association of 10 Settlements

2000-2003

Regional Central European Centre for
Environmental Technology

2003-

Regional Environmental Technology Centre

2004-

Consortium of 48 locally established Public
Companies

Role of the Regional Environmental Technology Centre

- Mission: Implementing the Common Initiative for an SDI Driven Development of the Tisza Basin
- Vision: Network of Local Offices that provides information, knowledge and financial services to support local players in identifying, planning and implementing projects

Role of the Regional Environmental Technology Centre

- Present tasks:
 - strategic planning
 - organising
 - building local institutions, called local offices
- Future tasks:
 - to run joint IT systems (e.g. early warning)
 - to support the coordination of local offices
 - to foster innovation transfer
 - to assist in co-financing of projects