

# Preparing FAIRway 2 works in the Rhine-Danube Corridor

Twinned Actions (2019-EU-TM-0262-S/2019-HR-TMC-0263-S)

## MINUTES (Final)

### Stakeholders' Forum Meeting 01 (SHFM01)

Date 12.04.2021

Time 12:30-16:00

Place online (*GoToMeeting*)

- Participants
- Association for Nature and Environment Protection Green Osijek: Jasmin Sadiković
  - Danube Commission: Manfred Seitz, Dejan Trifunović
  - Croatian Society for Birds and Nature Protection: Tibor Mikuška
  - Kopački Rit Nature Park: Vlatko Rožac
  - Institute for Environment and Nature, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (HRV): Vida Posavec Vukelić, Tanja Mihinjać
  - WWF Adria: Branka Španiček, Nikola Matović
  - WWF Austria: Arno Mohl
  - MMPI (HRV): Marijana Cindrić, Lana Deraković-Rakas
  - MCTI - Directorate for Inland Waterways (SRB): Jasna Muškatirović, Ivan Mitrović
  - viadonau: Lucia Karpatyova, Iris Marstaller, Robert Tögel
  - independent: Georg Rast

For the minutes Ivan Mitrović (MCTI - Directorate for Inland Waterways)

Documents distributed prior to the meeting  
Agenda  
Draft Rules on Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum ver0.3

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## Welcome note, introduction of participants, organizational issues

Mr. Mitrovic (MCTI) opened the first Stakeholders' Forum meeting (SHFM) and welcomed participants. All participants introduced themselves and briefly presented expectations from participation in the Stakeholders' Forum (SHF) activities. After the *tour the table*, Mr. Mitrovic explained organizational issues: basic principles of video conferencing via *GoToMeeting* tool, methods of asking for the floor, logging in by name and surname, usage of the chat box, usage of the camera, keeping the sound muted unless given floor, screen sharing functionality, usage of recording functionality (meeting will not be recorded), and privacy protection rules. All participants acknowledged stipulated organizational guidelines and commonly agreed on them.

## Preparing FAIRway 2 Works in the Rhine-Danube Corridor

Ms. Karpatyova (viadonau) made a brief presentation of the project Preparing FAIRway 2 works in the Rhine-Danube corridor. No questions have been raised by participants. Presentation of Ms. Karpatyova will be available at the SHF webpage, in line with the Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum.

## Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum

Mr. Mitrovic (MCTI) presented in detail the “Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum” (a document which has been distributed to all invitees prior to the meeting – no written comments to the document have been received prior to the meeting).

Mr. Seitz proposed that the Danube Commission should be a member of the SHF. No objections were raised against this proposal, and Mr. Mitrovic altered the draft text in line with the proposal.

Mr. Mikuska asked why the number of members is limited to 10 and noted that there are more than 10 participants at the meeting. Mr. Mitrovic explained that representatives of beneficiaries from AUT, HRV and SRB are not members of the SHF, and that membership in the SHF is generally designed for NGOs and governmental institutions in the field of environmental and nature protection, as well as for relevant international organization. Regarding the limit of 10 members, Mr. Mitrovic responded that this limit is changeable, but insisted that membership should be limited to certain number in order to have defined structure of the SHF. He added that nobody will be denied the right to participate at the meeting, in case of expressed interest. Mr. Mitrovic said that the provisional list of members will be distributed after the meeting, and that list can stay open and adjustable during the run of the SHF.

Mr. Mohl raised question on the difference between members and observers and said that roles are not clearly defined. Mr. Mitrovic responded that roles of members and observers are truly not strictly defined in the Draft Rules, as it was not the intention of the draft rules to make strict distinctions. He added that generally members are permanent participants at the SHF activities (and for consistency reasons members and deputy members are to be defined), while from observers such consistency is not required. In general, there are no differences in access to documents, nor right for expressing their interest in certain topics in the run of the SHF. Mr. Mitrovic noted that the idea is to create constructive group of interested parties that would contribute to the quality of the project, guarantee transparency of the process, and that would truly hold a stake of the project.

Mr. Tögel explained that limiting the number of forum members is very practical (regarding speaking time, scheduling rooms, field trips), and that the number should not be too high. He added that division into members and observers has also proved as a positive practice in Austria.

Mr. Rožac asked if the Kopački Rit Nature Park is a member, and Mr. Mitrovic confirmed that Kopački Rit Nature Park is expected to be member, as it is relevant institution, with geographical and thematic relevancy for the project.

Mr. Mitrovic noted all remarks to the Draft Rules expressed by participants. He added that all comments and suggestion to the draft text are welcome in the following period, and that Rules can be fine-tuned in the run of the SHF. Mr. Mitrovic will distribute the updated Draft Rules together with the draft MMs.

## Election of the Chairperson of the Stakeholders' Forum

Mr. Mitrovic informed participants that the project team has proposed Mr. Mitrovic to be the chairperson of the SHF. All participants responded with no objection to this proposal, so Mr. Mitrovic was elected. Mr. Mitrovic thanked the participants for their trust and expressed his readiness to step back from the chairperson's position, in case any of the SHF members requested it.

## Communication rules

Mr. Mitrovic proposed the following basic communication rules:

- documents of the SHF will be published at the project web page, as stipulated in the Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum;
- chairperson remains at full disposal to any of the members for facilitation of provision of required information;

- members of the SHF can communicate between themselves directly, or indirectly through the chairperson;
- usage of the *GoToMeeting* tool, as explained in the opening session.

All participants agreed on the communication rules.

Technical issue with *GoToMeeting* tool was experienced during the meeting, and the organizer acknowledged the necessity for improvements by the next SHF meeting.

## Provisional timetable of the work of the Stakeholders' Forum

Mr. Mitrovic proposed the following activities of the SHF in the upcoming period:

- Draft Monitoring Plan prepared in the Activity 2 under the lead of Croatia will be distributed to participants after the meeting, and members will provide their inputs until 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2021;
- Meeting minutes will be prepared and distributed after the meeting (in line with the presented Draft Rules on Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum), accompanied with the updated Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum and the provisional list of members of the SHF;
- Three SHFM in total are planned in 2021:
  - Regular SHFM02 is tentatively set for 09<sup>th</sup> of June 2021,
  - Regular SHFM03 is tentatively set for 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021;
- In case of a need for the Ad Hoc SHFM, it will be organized upon the request by any of the member sent to the chairperson, and after the chairperson check the availability of members;
- Meeting documents will be made available at the Forum webpage.

## Draft Monitoring Plan for navigational and environmental characteristics of the Croatian/Serbian common Danube section

Ms. Deraković-Rakas presented Draft Monitoring Plan. She explained that the expert involved in the elaboration of the Monitoring Plan is not present at the meeting and asked participants to enter all related questions in the Chat box so that the expert could answer them in written after the meeting.

Mr. Rast asked if the geotechnical explorations will include groundwater table measurements in riparian zones. He also noted that monitoring floodplain habitats is a very wide scope, and asked how it will be specified. Ms. Deraković-Rakas said that answers will be provided in writing after the meeting.

Mr. Matovic noticed that it was not mentioned how many ornithological field trips will be conducted each year. He also raised question on what is critical habitat. Ms. Deraković-Rakas explained that critical locations were meant in the presentation and not critical habitat. The answer to other question will be provided in writing after the meeting.

Mr. Mikuska raised a question regarding sediment transport. He feels that 3 times per year would not be enough for quality data. He asked what are the chances to establish continuous monitoring of sediment transport (2 stations upstream of the Drava River mouth + 2 station downstream of the Drava River mouth)? Ms. Deraković-Rakas said that answers will be provided in writing after the meeting.

Mr. Mikuska also asked about the criteria for definition of 17 critical sectors for navigation. Mr. Mitrovic responded that these critical sectors were defined in the period 2012-2014, and that this list will be the subject of the revision in the following period, as it is planned to make the new 1D model for this stretch of the Danube River. Mr. Mohl asked if the river bed deepening will be assessed. Mr. Mitrovic responded that beneficiaries have a database of hydrographic measurements for the last 30 years, and that data will be used for analysis of the hydrographical and morphological development of this river stretch.

Presentation of Ms. Deraković-Rakas will be available at the SHF webpage.

## Next steps, action points list, next meeting

Mr. Mitrovic reflected on the next steps, summarised action points from the meeting and set the provisional dates for the next meetings, agreed by participants, all provided in the tables below.

### AOB

No other business has been raised at the meeting.

Mr. Mitrovic thanked all participants for their active participation and wished them all the best until the next meeting.

### Action Points List

| AP code   | Task   | Responsible       | Deadline   |
|-----------|--|-------------------|------------|
| SHFM01-01 | Provision of Draft Monitoring Plan to members  | MCI               | 13.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-02 | Provision of answers to questions raised during the meeting  | MCI (MMPI expert) | 19.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-03 | Distribution of updated Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Forum  | IMI               | 19.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-04 | Distribution of the draft List of members  | IMI               | 19.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-05 | Distribution of the draft Meeting Minutes  | IMI               | 19.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-06 | Feedback to the draft Monitoring Plan by SHF members and observers   | all               | 22.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-07 | Feedback on the draft MMs, Updated Draft Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Forum and the draft List of members | all               | 27.04.2021 |
| SHFM01-08 | Distribution of the final Meeting Minutes  | all               | 03.05.2021 |
| SHFM01-09 | Publication of meeting documents, including presentations, from the SHFM01 on the SHF webpage                              | LKA/IMA           | 03.05.2021 |
| SHFM01-10 | Invitation to the SHFM02   | IMI               | 28.05.2021 |

### Upcoming Meetings

| Meeting | date            | time        | place       |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| SHFM02  | Wed, 09.06.2021 | 12:30-15:30 | GoToMeeting |
| SHFM03  | Fri, 15.10.2021 | 09:30-12:30 | GoToMeeting |

### Attachments

- SHFM01 List of Participants
- Rules on the Organization and the Work of the Stakeholders' Forum ver1.0
- List of Members ver1.0
- SHFM01 Evaluation Results ver1.0

## Photos

