

# Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference

## *Parallel Work Session II*

### Hazardous Substances

## Present status in the Danube basin (I)

- Pollution from hazardous substances is **significant**
  - Released through many different pathways: industry, agriculture, mining...
  - Full extent cannot be evaluated to date,
  - Few data available for some hazardous substances such as heavy metals and pesticides, indicating the transboundary scale of the problem.
- About 70 % of the Danube is “**at risk**” or “**possibly at risk**” due to hazardous substances
- Risk assessment complex and uncertain

## Present status in the Danube basin (II)

- Cadmium and lead: most serious inorganic contaminants
  - Downstream locations (below rkm 1071) values of 2-10 times higher than target value.
- Pesticides: alarming concentrations
  - In some tributaries and in the lower Danube,
  - DDT of special concern in entire basin; other substances (e.g. 2,4-D, Alachlor, Trifluralin and Atrazine and copper compounds) found at local hot spots,
  - Current low use of agricultural pesticides: unique opportunity to develop more sustainable agricultural systems, before new dependency on the use of agro-chemical products.

## Follow-up (I)

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### Closing the knowledge gap

- Improving data quality
  - Ensuring equal analytical capabilities in all TNMN laboratories,
  - Training of laboratory personnel in the analysis of "new" priority substances,
  - Implementing robust and sensitive analytical methods with detection limits below the environmental quality standards set by the European Commission.
- National screenings for EU WFD priority substances
- Joint longitudinal surveys focused on priority substances (e.g. the planned Joint Danube Survey II or the planned survey on the Sava)
- Design of the monitoring programme for operational monitoring in line with Annex V WFD

## Follow-up (II)

### Documenting and using the knowledge

- Further development of existing inventories:
  - From European Pollutant Emission Register to a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register,
  - Organisation of information across the basin and with other sources.
- Development of measures for the introduction of “best available techniques” and best environmental practices”
  - Without delay to meet targets set by WFD,
  - Together with the relevant partners: agriculture, industry, mining...
  - In the entire Danube basin.
- Securing necessary investment on the basis of clear priority setting

# Discussion

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## Main questions

- Do you perceive the specific problem area of hazardous substances, as presented in the **Roof Report**?
- Are your **priority issues** adequately reflected? Do you have any further concerns?
- What could be **possible approaches** to minimize relevant impacts especially on the transboundary level?

## Statements from Stakeholders:

- 1 Walter Kling, IAWD
- 2 Barbara Becker Via Donau

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