

# UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project Public Participation, NGOs and awareness raising

## Objectives and Results



## OBJECTIVE - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To ensure public participation and involvement of key stakeholders in environmental planning and decision making in the Danube

- » Early 90ties, capacities of and NGO involvement low,
- » 1992-96: EPDRB – Institutional development - GEF initiated platform for NGOs,
- » 1997-99: DPRP – further focus trough grants and DEF support,
- » 2001-6: DRP - Substantial support (US\$ 5,3 mill) for NGOs, Grants, Communication and PP.



## DRP - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

- » NGO support – DEF –establish strong network and rising capacities and;
- » Small Grants Programme – practical activities related to pollution issues;
- » Communication and awareness raising, dissemination of information and building capacities of key partners and stakeholders;
- » Access to information – public participation – pilot projects.



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## OBJECTIVE DEF SUPPORT

- » To **raise the capacities and awareness** on water pollution issues of NGOs in the Region;
- » To establish strong plat-form for NGO participation and **network for communication and cooperation** between stakeholders;
- » To develop channels of **communication to Danube population.**



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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES – DEF SUPPORT

- » Provided support for operation of the DEF Secretariat, facilitate communication and information management at local, regional and international level;
- » Organised consultation meetings and training workshops on nutrient issues, WFD, communication skills etc.;
- » Supported communication tool as publications, Danube Day, Danube art master, campaigning on pollution issues etc.



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## DEF - RESULTS

- » DEF is now: international umbrella organisation – with enhanced **technical capacities**;
- » Raised **communication** between NGOs and key stakeholders, governments/authorities;
- » Raised **cooperation** at:
  - » national, regional, international level;
  - » ICPDR, Danube Day, etc.



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## SMALL GRANTS - OBJECTIVE

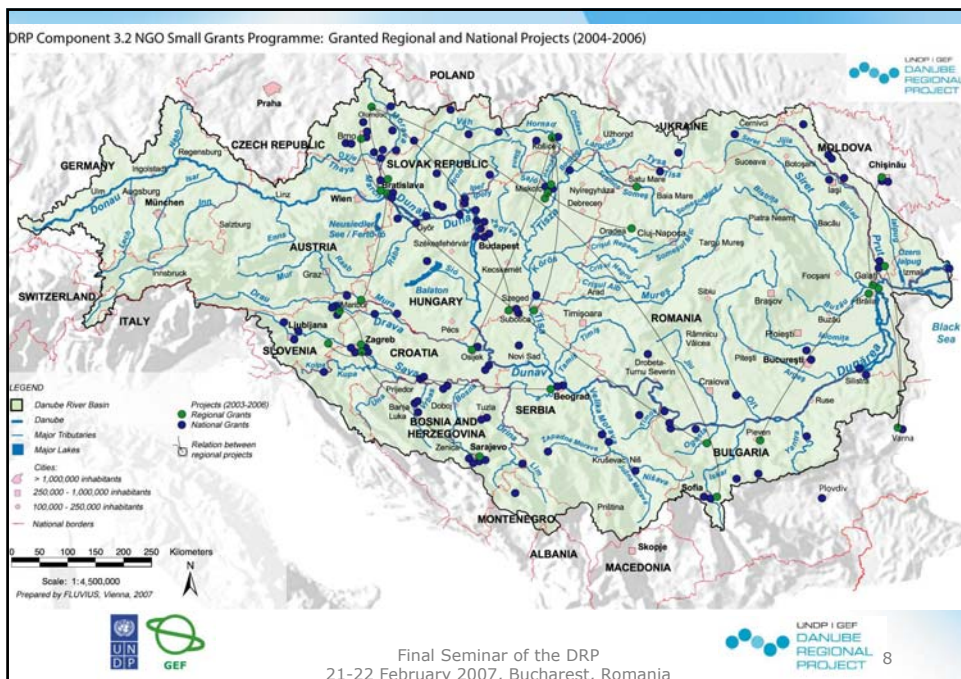
- » Enable NGOs to implement local scale technical pollution reduction projects, model activities / innovative practices;
- » Develop further technical capacities and to communicate and cooperate with local stakeholders;
- » Raise awareness amongst general public and key stakeholders on pollution issues.



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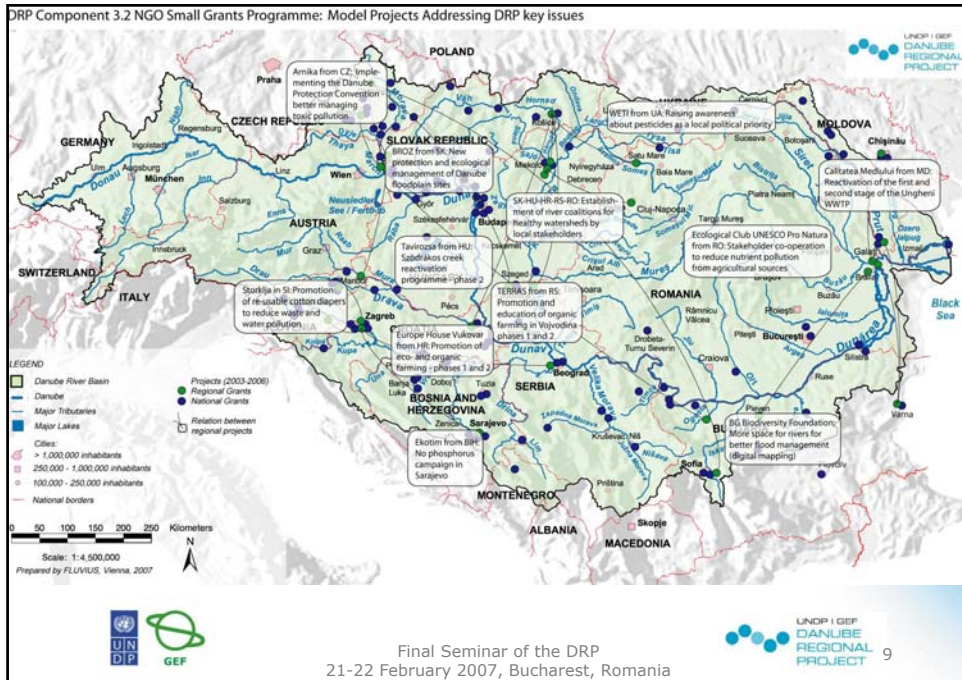
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## COMMUNICATION – OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- » To build communication into the overall planning and implementation process of the DRP's activities;
- » To raise the profile and the awareness of the UNDP/GEF Project, ICPDR and Danube issues (nutrient reduction);
- » To develop and dissemination information.

## COMMUNICATION - ACTIVITIES

### **Process – communication as a tool**

- » Working with key partners and sub-project managers on best way of communicating the issues;
- » Specified Terms of References with focus on communication - to improve understanding of project objectives – improve outreach and result;
- » Sub-communication strategies on how and what to disseminate to whom;
- » Raise the profile (branding) of DRP and ICPDR;
- » Communication training.



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## COMMUNICATION - ACTIVITIES

### **Products - Awareness raising activities**

- » Danube Watch;
- » Danube Day;
- » Campaigns;
- » Media;
- » Information materials, publications and products.



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## COMMUNICATION - RESULTS

- » Raised profile and awareness of UNDP/GEF and ICPDR;
- » Raised awareness of Danube pollution issues amongst stakeholders;
- » Enhanced final results of the DRP projects and activities.



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## ACCESS TO INFORMATION / PP PROJECT OBJECTIVE

- » To increase public access to environmental information and promote the participation of citizens and NGOs in protecting the Danube River and its tributaries;
- » Special emphasis on supporting public involvement in the RBM planning process – WFD and Aarhus Convention;
- » REC – RFF and NYU.



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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- » Worked together with public officials and NGOs at national, regional and local levels in 5 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro;
- » **National level:** identified the main barriers to public access to information and involvement – tools and strategies developed adapted to national needs;
- » 5 Demonstration projects – testing of approaches -hot-spots – DEF;
- » **Regional level:** lessons learned and shared experience – study tours, trainings and regional meetings.



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## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROJECT RESULTS

- » Built capacities and awareness of officials and NGOs on PP and access to information;
- » Positive results and experience from pilot projects to test access to information;
- » National adapted manuals and tools have been developed;
- » Experience and lessons learned has been disseminated throughout the Danube.



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## PROJECT RESULTS AND WAY FORWARD

- » ICPDR Public participation strategy and plans;
- » PP activities and awareness raising activities under implementation in all countries;
- » Use the momentum, build on initiated activities and raised capacities to further cooperate with NGOs and local stakeholders;
- » Interest and involvement of the Danube population will be ensured.



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