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Transboundary cooperation of the Republic of Hungary

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The Danube river basin in Central-Europe

- most international basin in the world
- 17 riparian countries
- Basin area: 779500 km²
- Hungary and its 7 neighbours (Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Croatia, Slovenia) share 77.7% of the basin area (605700 km²)
- Longitude: 2842 km (Hungarian stretch: 417 km)
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Comparison with South-American basins

• The Danube basin is small compared with the Amazonas or the La Plata basins
• The Amazonas basin appr. 7.5 times bigger
• The La Plata basin appr. 4.3 times bigger
• The latter have fewer riparian countries
• Longitude of Danube similar to Sao Francisco, Rio Negro or the Paraguay
• These rivers have 1 or max. 3 riparian countries
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European Outlook

• Basel Convention 1879. - (timber floating, navigation)
• Hispano-Portugal agreements on river Duero (Duoro) - use of hydro-energy
• Use of international rivers (Danube) - navigation (role of non riparian countries)
• Peace treaties after the I.WW - (use of the divided basin)
Consequences of the I. World War

• Peace Treaties of the Environs of Paris (1919-1920.) legally closed the I. WW
• Trianon Treaty 4 June 1920. (Division of the Carpathian-basin)
• Clause 292 Common Interest Principle
• Clause 293 Organisation of C. R. E. D.
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Commission Technique de Regime des Eaux du Danube (C.R.E.D.)

• Permanent Technical Commission for the Water Regime of the Danube
• C.R.E.D. worked in the period 1924-1938.
• Liquidation of the water boards
• Initiated bilateral and trilateral frontier water agreements among the interested states
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The first frontier water agreements

• Hungarian-Roumanian General Water Agreement 1924.
• Hungarian-Austrian Frontier Water Agreement 1927.
• Hungarian-Czecho-Slovakian Frontier Water Agreement 1937.
• Hungarian-Roumanian-Czecho-Slovakian Technical Committee for Transcarpathia
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Frontier water agreements after the II. World War

• 1955. Hungarian-Yugoslavian Agreement
• 1956. Hungarian-Austrian Agreement
Hungarian-Austrian Water Committee

• Most traditional agreement and committee
• Catchment areas: Lake of Fertő, Ikva, Pinka, Hanság, Rába, Lapincs rivers
• Operational and preparatory activities managed by the H-A Water Subcommittee
• Working Group for Water Quality Control
• New topics: subsurface waters, EU matters
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Hungarian-Slovakian Committee of Frontier Waters

• Danube Subcommittee
• Ipoly Subcommittee
• Tisza Subcommittee
• Water Quality Control Subcommittee
• Financial Subcommittee
• Group of Hydrological Experts
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Hungarian-Ukrainian Frontier Water Agreement

• 1993. New agreement with the independent Ukraine, the use of the Hungarian-Soviet agreement is ended
• 1998. Modified agreement with reference to Helsinki Convention
• Water Damage Averting Group of Experts
• Water Quality Control GoE
• Hydrological and Water Management GoE
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Hungarian-Roumanian Water Technical Joint Committee

- Preparation of a new agreement is going on by an Inter-governmental Committee
- Hydrometeorological Subcommittee
- Longterm WM Planning Subcommittee
- Water Quality Control Subcommittee
- Many additional regulations are in force
Hungarian-Yugoslav Water Management Committee

- The 1955 Agreement is considered valid by both parties
- Interruption of co-operation by the civil war
- Special Ministerial Commissioner acted in the intermediate period
- 1996. The Committee has a session again
- Interruption of activities by the Kosovo war
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Permanent Hungarian-Slovenian Water Management Committee

• 1995. Transboundary Water Agreement with the independent Slovenia with reference to the Helsinki and the Sophia Conventions
• Smallest common interest territory
• Working Group of Water Management
• Working Group of Water Quality Control
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Multilateral Co-operation

• 2000. EU Water Framework Directive
• INBO and GWP
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Vision on Future Co-operation

• The execution of the WFD is the task of the member countries
• The water management development plans for the common sub-basins must be agreed between the interested countries
• The importance of transboundary cooperation will be strengthened
• Even common legal entities (directorates) should be formulated
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Thank you for your kind attention!