



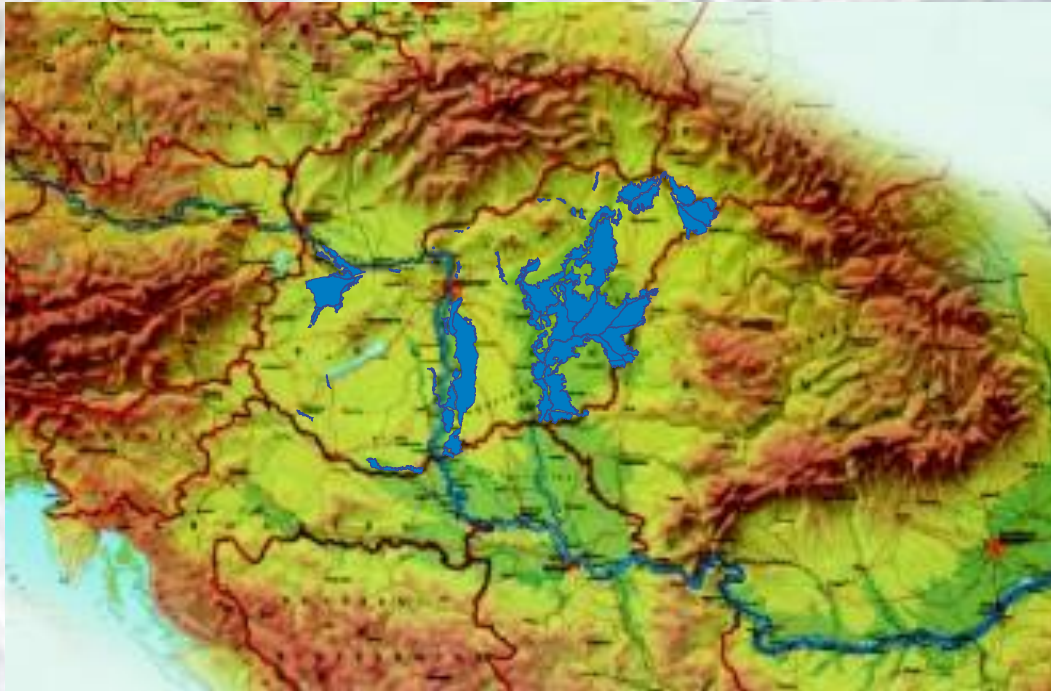
The Importance of Twinning for the Hungarian Water Management Historical Aspects



**Hungarian National Water Authority
Kálmán Papp Former International Director**

Sevilla 17-20 October 2018

Hungary is situated inside the drainage basin of the river Danube, in the lowest part of the Carpathian Basin



7 neighbouring countries

Flood plains cover almost one-quarter of the country's territory, affecting 2,5 million inhabitants in 700 settlements.

Danube river basin

EU objectives: sustainable use of water



ICPDR aims:

**coordinating the
common objectives of
the Danube basin**

National aims:

- **Considering the special needs and circumstances of flood control**
- **Introduction of the open planning process in water management**



New Situation after the Political Changes in Hungary

The COMECON Cooperation finished.

The old bilateral research and technical contacts not continued.

The already existing Dutch-Hungarian (NWA-Rijkswaterstaat) cooperation came to a standstill.

Only the transboundary cooperation continued.

Instead of the Comecon oriented, earlier bilateral contacts we had to build up a new system of international cooperation.

For the NWA we had to find new partners (twinning) in the West.

The development of the technical exchanges and the research cooperation was important from transboundary context as well.

The Hungarian Cooperating Partners

Main coordinating organisation:

National Water Authority (NWA or in Hungarian OVH)

which later named by reorganisation:

(OKTVF - National General Directorate for Environment, Nature Conservancy and Water)

(OVF – National General Directorate for Water)

12 local directorates (VIZIG) some of them were very active like:

Western HU Szombathely (FR), Middle Transdanubian Székesfehérvár (DE, NL), Middle Tisza Szolnok (DE, NL), TransTisza Debrecen (FR, NL), Upper Tisza (Fr, NL), Budapest (FR), Baja (NL).

NWA-Rijkswaterstaat Cooperation

- **First MoU and JC between a Western and a Socialist country in water management from 1984; in 1989 almost stopped.**

Just some example about the results:

- **1990. Seminar on Dutch Water Policy (good example for the reorganisation of water management in Hungary).**
- **Gemenc Project (very broad cooperation in connection with the ecological rehabilitation of a Danube dead arm till 2002).**
- **1995. „Integrated Water Management in a Changing Society”**
- **2001. HRH Willem-Alexander Crownprince's visit to Hungary.**
- **The most detailed cooperation achieved between central and local water management organisations (ministries, general and basin directorates, research institutions, water boards).**

The New French Connection

In the past very few water management contacts with France.

- Breakthrough in 1992: an OIEau delegation paid a visit to Hungary headed by M. J.F. Donzier; NWA-OIEau agreement**
- AQUADOC project; training of civil servants; public utilities; OIEau played an important role for NWA in contacting the French water agencies and to join INBO.**

1994: NWA-AESN agreement and WS on Water Economics.

Useful change of information on French SDAGE and on the Hungarian flood protection practice. AESN help for HU WM

to join EU and later in the implementation of WFD.

2003: FranciArt Seminar in Budapest in Institute Française.

The New French Connection II.

2003: Preliminary discussions with M. Beséme in Martinique during INBO LB on a twinning between NWA and AELB.

- **2004: Undersigning the NWA (OKTVF)-AELB Twinning with the participation of two HU local directorates (Szombathely and Debrecen).**
- **Useful workshops and study tours dealing with basin development practice and the implementation of WFD.**
- **2008-2010: The period of common Hungarian-French Agreement with the participation of AESN and AELB on French Side, and with four HU water directorates plus the NWA from HU Side. New topics: financing of water management, exchange of young experts.**

The Spanish Connection

1993: Positive Spanish answer at a former HU initiative.

1994. Budapest: Conclusion of OVF-CEDEX (CEH) Agreement during Sr. F.M.Martinez and Sr. C.Escartin visit to Hungary.

Main topics: flood protection, hidrological information system, water management development plans.

Useful contacts with Confederación Hidrografica del Ebro.

1997. Siófok: „Seminar on National and Regional Planning”.

2002. Madrid: Participation on the the 75 Years Jubilee Conference of the Spanish Confederaciones Hidrograficas.

However in 2003 the OVF-CEDEX (CEH) cooperation finished, in 2007-2008 on ministerial level HU-ESP consultations on transboundary cooperation and the planning process.

Agreement with Bayerische Landesamt für Wasserwirtschaft (OVF-LfW)

In 1989 the GDR Water Sector was liquidated.

1991: Herr Walter Binder, LfW GD visited Hungary, conclusion of an agreement with the Bavarian Partner Organisation.

Long lasting cooperation started on ministerial, general directorate and directorate level as well. Many study tours, workshops and the best information exchange were typical.

Interesting topics: environmentally friend amelioration, management of shallow lakes (like Balaton), sewage treatment, water quality protection, flood protection etc.

1998. Brussels: Bavarian EU Conference (with AELB, National Rivers Authority and OVF participation).

Agreement with Bayerische Landesamt für Wasserwirtschaft (OVF-LfW) II.

**1999: Common water quality protection training in Siófok.
Later executed with Bavarian help the Zala River Water
Quality Rehabilitation Project.**

2000: Seminarium on flood protection in Munich.

**2002: Common project started on the utilization of
floodplains.**

**2004: Very detailed information provided by LfW on WFD
implementation and planning.**

**2010: Consultation in Munich on the financing of water
management in the Bavarian Ministry of Environment.**

Other important cooperations

1990-1994. OVF-Water Services Association England and Wales (water supply and sewage-treatment, detailed information about the British Water Utility Sector);

2002-2008. HU-Chinese Cooperation Agreement (very useful contacts with the Ministry of Water Resources, Yellow River and Yangtze River Water Commissions. Main topics: flood protection, basin management, participation on Yellow River International Water Forums);

2008. New HU-Mongolian Agreement. The Mongolian Government gave the „Project of the Century” decoration for the results of the former cooperation.

2010-2014. Project proposals for East-Mongolia Development Modell and the Kherlen River Basin Water Management Plan.

Final Remarks

- **From HU Side we express our sincere gratitude to our partner institutions (twinning partners) and their representatives for the very useful and friendly cooperation which lasted through many years.**

We hope so that from our Side we have also contributed to the success of the above mentioned cooperations.

Our Highest Appreciation to Former Partners

France: J.F. Donzier, Mme. J.Mongellaz, P. Roussel, Ténrière-Buchot, P.A. Roche, G. Fradin, J.Sicard, Mme. M. Calle, A.L. Roux, J.L. Beséme, J.F. Talec, N.Matthieu, M. Stein

Netherlands: van der Kleij, de Jong, J. Leentvaar, M. Hofstra, R.Uijterlinde, Fon Koemans, I.J. Blom, Els van Grol, P. Roeters, R. Slomp, H. Schouwenburg, I. de Boer, J. van Gastel

Spain: Srs. F. M. Martinez, C. Escartin, J. Prado, F. Estrada, T. Estrela, F.O. de Toledo y Ubieto, T. S. Marco, M. M. Anton, J.M. Santafé, Sra. E. Vargas, R. Martinez, J.M. Muñozero

Bayern: W. Binder, H. Kaunzinger, K.P. Blumenwitz, A. Göttle, J. Jedlitschka, W. Grambow, K. Cumutat, M. Becker

Great-Britain: M. Carney, J. Oatridge, J. Bellak, P. Hall, T. Hill, P. Garret, Les Jones, D. Neil Gallegher

China: Chen Lei, E Jingping, Hu Si Yi, Li Guoying, Li Kungang, Chi Xinyang, Sun Feng

Mongolia: T. Badrakh, Z. Batbayar, L. Janchivdorj, B. Erdenechimeg, M. Shar, Nuutskhantamir, Odontsetseg, Rinzaan

**Thank you
for your kind attention!
Gracias por vuestro atención!**