

Good morning,

My name is Olimpia Negru and I am General Director of the Directorate General for Water and also the project manager of the PP12.

First of all I want to welcome you, in the name of the Romanian Ministry of Waters and Forests, at the kick off meeting of the Danube Floodplain project. I am honored to have the opportunity to address to you at the beginning of this project and we are very happy to have today in Bucharest all the partners and associated strategic partners involved in project implementation.

We are very happy and proud that we have managed to start today this project which has been considered as a flagship project for ICPDR and has been endorsed in this respect within the Ministerial Declaration of the ICPDR countries in 2016.

I would like to make a few remarks about the scope of this project. This project promote a common approach, by all Danubian states, regarding the restoring storage capacity of water of floodplains across the Danube River length, from upstream to downstream. This can be made by ecological reconstruction of floodplains, rehabilitating their ecological functions and maximizing the benefits of these ecosystems.

From our point of view this project could be multi beneficial for the implementation of the Flood Directive, Nature Directives and not the last contributing to the implementation of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

We see this project as a continuation of the Floodrisk Project and therefore we have to use and build on the outcomes developed in this previous cooperation. The last evolution of the climate change at the global level has underlined the need for an enhance cooperation at the River Basin level for tackling extreme hydrological phenomena.

Particularly we have to acknowledge that is a need to leave more space for rivers and work more with the nature. The classic flood management systems involving only structural infrastructure has reached their limit.

This is why we have to join our forces to find new and wise and innovative solutions in order to adapt, as soon as possible, to the challenges of the climate change. Romania as a downstream country is very interested to cooperate at the Danube Basin level for establishing a joint approach which will better protect water quality, nature and people.

In this respect, I wish to thank firstly the Lead Partner National Administration Romanian Waters for organizing this meeting and also all partners and strategic partners which are involved in implementation of this project and assure you of the entire support of Ministry Waters and Forests during the implementation of this project.

Thank you very much