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**A chance for Central-Eastern European NGO's cooperation on the
environmental health of common river valleys**

Tisza Klub, Szolnok (Hungary)

**FRENCH MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT BAS-RHIN COUNTY
COUNCIL CITY OF STRASBOURG**

A CHANCE FOR CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN NGO'S COOPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF COMMON RIVER VALLEYS

Tisza Klub, Szolnok, Hungary

Resume

Every country must solve the regional environmental problems (e.g. catchment systems), in common with others.

In this respect the Central and Eastern European NGO's for environmental protection and nature conservation can have a great part.

In the bi- or multilateral cooperations the Tisza Klub (SZOLNOK, HUNGARY) has the following philosophy: the environment protection does not know the national boundaries, the rivers connect the countries.

The cooperation between NGO's can be feasible on the base of the principles of mutuality, publicity and freedom from politics, respecting the laws of the countries.

The Hungarian and Rumanian NGO's are successfully collaborating with each other to reveal the state of environmental health in the common river valleys and to promote the management.

All these run with some governmental responsibility, but contribute to the development of democracy.

A CHANCE FOR CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN NGO'S COOPERATION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF COMMON RIVER VALLEYS

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We are of the opinion that regional problems have to be solved on regional level and on the basis of global principles. We are facing such a regional and more-countries-involved situation when we want to reveal the environmental health of a certain region and to find solution for them.

We think that these questions involve not the only one the experts and governmental organisations but the citizens as well.

We believe in that the citizens have the right to know the condition of their environment and to form it.

The catchment areas and their environment are very important elements of the environmental protection, because they have many natural values and the other hand the water is utilised and contaminated too.

Our ambition is to study the condition of the common river valleys by the cooperation of Hungary and Rumanian NGO's, to make it public and take recommendations for the interested parties.

There are many tensions between the Central-Eastern European countries which limit the official cooperation. The civil organisations play an important role in the elimination of this tension. Therefore the philosophy of the Tisza Klub is: we must form a wide cooperation, firstly with the civil organisations and with the NGO's for environmental protection. It is made on the basis of mutuality, publicity and freedom from politics, respecting the laws of countries.

The project consist of the preparation, the forming of the database and it's application.

1. Preparation

Working up the information network , the contract with NGO's and establishing of project teams.

2. Database

Without suitable database, the NGO enterprise may become seriousless. The collection of data and the creation of database are professional work which need experts. Examinations must be carried out in lack of data, especially in case of study of the natural history. The database can be available for the interested parties in the form of discs or booklets. The videofilm of the given theme may be important part of documentation and public relation.

3. The application of the database

There can be produced professional, popularising things and other public relations. Information can be given on conferences, through workshops, during popularising courses through other means of the media . It is very important that the NGO's think about the citizens, the local and governmental authorities, the experts and the environmental education too.

It was proved during the projects that there are many kinds of environmental threats on different level along the rivers (fig. 1.)

Besides the propagation of environmental health the NGO's could successfully initiate the establishment of common Biosphere Reserves, furthermore the environmental and cultural heritage of regions could be part of sustainable development.

We have request from the Council of Europe to suggest for endowers (for example: foundations) supporting the ambitions of regional NGO's in Central-Eastern Europe in the interest of these activities could became the bricks of the common Europe.

Fig. 1. Threats and level of impact along River Maros in River Tisza (Rumania/Hungary)

| SECTION | | THREATS | LEVEL OF IMPACT |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| U P P E R | source | | |
| | 0 | solid wastes | local |
| | . | drying up of peat bogs | local |
| | . | stone mine wastes | subregional |
| M I D D L E | . | sawdust load | local |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | . | farm wastes | subregional |
| | . | accumulation of pollutants (barrage) | local |
| | . | communal and industrial wastes, air pollution | subregional |
| | . | heavy metals loads | transregional |
| | . | canalisation and cut out of trees, biodegradation | regional |
| . | eutrophication processes | transregional | |
| L O W E R | <hr/> | | |
| | . | decreasing of flood plain area, melioration | subregional |
| | . | communal and agricultural contaminates | subregional |
| | 0 | | |
| | mouth | load of pollutants | transregional |