

Foreword

Floods are amongst the major issues in the Danube River Basin, if not the most important one. Several floods during the last decade were very huge, although there had been even larger ones over the long history of the region. In addition to huge floods in the Danube River in 2006, 2010, 2013 and 2014, even larger ones had happened along the major tributaries of the Danube in its middle course such as those in the Tamiš River in 2005, the Tisza River in 2006, the Sava River in 2005, 2013 and 2014, as well as in the Sava River's principal tributaries: the Drina River in 2010, the Kolubara River in 2014. Damages topped billiards of Euros, and the casualties were even worse.

The management of floods is usually based on harmonised flood defence planning, forecast procedures and co-ordination on the national and international level, through the co-operation of different institutions. The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) recognises the importance of flood management. Thus, the Danube Strategic Project Fund (DSPF) supported the InterFloodCourse Project which aimed at the development of a curriculum and training material for the international, basin-wide course on flood management.

Basic documents related to flood issues developed so far in the EU are the EU Floods Directive and the Danube Basin Flood Risk Management plan. The curriculum within the InterFloodCourse Project is developed by distinguished experts from 7 countries basin-wide, having a long experience in water management education, research and engineering practice. They prepared a book which covers numerous phases within the flood management context, as well as a brief overview of impacts of climate change on floods and those of flood duration and magnitude on the environment, navigation, urban infrastructure systems and flood control structures. Various topics are complemented with practical experience on the Danube River and its tributaries in Hungary and Serbia.

The book supporting the course has been prepared, co-ordinated and edited by the two Project partners: The Faculty of Water Sciences of the University of Public Service and the Faculty of Civil Engineering of the Belgrade University.

The Course is offered at provision to interested parties and state agencies, who will benefit both from general and advanced knowledge in river hydrology and hydraulics, including statistics, sediment, soil and ground data, and different flood forecast aspects.

The Course will be divided into two parts in accordance with the curriculum. The first half of the course, which roughly covers 8 chapters of the book, will be held at the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Civil Engineering, and the second half, covered by additional 8 chapters, at the Faculty of Water Sciences in Baja. In addition to class trainings, one field trip is included in each host country.

It should be stressed once again that the course aims at the preparation of flood management professionals for the prevention and the decreasing of the damages and casualties in the entire Danube River Basin.

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