



Transboundary Water Resources Management

A Multidisciplinary Approach



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4.9.1

Introduction

During the last decade there have been many activities aiming to improve water management amongst neighbouring countries [1, 2]. Many such projects have been initiated worldwide but, with the exception of the European Union (EU) territory, only very few have been successfully implemented or even started.

The project Sustainable Development of Hungarian-Serbian Transboundary Aquifer (SUDEHSTRA) was carried out from June 2007 till August 2008. It was one of the cross-border cooperation programmes funded by the European Union (ERDF/INTERREG IIIA/Community Initiative) whose objective and tasks were fully in line with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD; EC 2000/60) and EU Groundwater Daughter Directive targets.

The benefits of this cross-border project are supposed to range from the national level to the very local one:

- 1) strengthening bilateral technical cooperation and enabling the exchange of information between the neighbouring countries;
- 2) improving national, regional and local water practice;
- 3) creating an ambience to facilitate the realization of the targets of the EU Water Framework Directives:
- 4) building local technical capacities;
- 5) increasing public awareness of the importance of water issues and of sustainable use of water and its protection from pollution:
- developing tools for appropriate groundwater management and monitoring at all levels.

4.9.2

Study Area

The aquifer system under study is located between the Danube and Tisa (Tisza) rivers and extends to the vicinity of Kiskunfelegyhaza on the Hungarian side (north) and to Vrbas in Serbia (south). The main groundwater consumers are the cities and industries of Szeged, Kiskunhalas, Baja, Tompa, Hódmezővásárhely (Csongrád and Bács-Kiskun Counties in Hungary) and Subotica, Sombor, Bačka Topola, Vrbas, Kula (in total 16 municipalities in Serbia, Vojvodina province, Bačka region). The study area is populated by over 800 000 inhabitants, about 40% of whom are on the Hungarian side of the border.

The Pannonian basin (or the Great Hungarian Basin) represents a geographical and geological entity that spreads over the territory of several countries. The central