Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Water Management in Romania

National and international legal frame for public information and consultation

National:
- Ministerial Order 1012/19 October 2005 concerning the Procedure for public information access related to the water management field
- Ministerial Order 1044/27 October 2005 concerning the Procedure for water users, riparians and public consultation in the decision making process related to the water management field

International:
- European accession requirements:
  - Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC:
    - ...to encourage the active involvement of all interested parties ...seek comments from public on river basin management plans
- The Convention on Co-operation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube (Danube River Protection Convention)
Basin committees – “Water Parliaments”

Organized at the level of 11 water directorates of the National Administration “Romanian Waters”

Each committee has 15 members:
- water management responsible,
- representatives of prefectures,
- representatives of county councils,
- users (industry, agriculture, localities),
- NGOs.

Are involved in the decision making process
- to provide advise to national government
- to promote PP concerning the RBM process
- to inform other key stakeholders about PP possibilities and structures

Strategies/Plans on informing and educating peoples

- two communication strategy (for kids and grown-up people) which have been disseminated at national level, as a framework for local activities (depending on the local situation)

- 2007 Communication Plan of the MoEWM

- MoEWM website – an important and cost efficient tool/“Kids Corner” – ecologic education for children (based on the idea that children are excellent multipliers of the message)

- national TV spots (2 weeks before the events - on 3 channels of the National Romanian Television) for celebrating:
  - Danube Day / every year starting of 2004
  - International Black Sea Day / starting of 2006 – public awareness: the necessity of the protection and the conservation of the marine environment

- Two national campaigns in 2007 on rising public awareness and informing people (1) and (2) authorities /industries about the provisions of WFD
Activities performed in pilot projects:

1. **Enhancing Access to Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making UNDP-GEF Danube Regional Project- Component 3.4**

   Under this project, in Romania, it were developed two national activities:

   - Public Access to water management Information/Public Participation in decision making process in water management field – Manual for authorities which has been written for the authorities, especially for those not involved in the water management issues; it was printed under the coordination of the Regional Environment Center and with the Ministry of Environment and Water Management support

   - Elaboration of a brochure for the public and NGO’s as target groups, on the same topic printed

2. **Support for the future preparation of a harmonised Körös/Crisuri river basin management plan in a participative process (French technical and financial support under the coordination of ICPDR).**

   Expected results:

   - **Strengthening** the Hungarian and Romanian cooperation between transboundary organisations in charge of and water management including public participation

   - **Enhance stakeholder consultation** and prepare a test joint public consultation based on the timetable and WFD work programme and the main issue in the Körös/Crisuri basin (as a pilot test for the Tisa basin/region consultation) – on going
Activities performed in pilot projects

3. “Clean Crisuri” pilot basin project (based on two education strategies developed by MoEWM for children and people over 18 years old) – ongoing

- Expected results: information and raising people’s involvement in elaborating the water protection and management strategies
- Questionnaires
- Printed information/education booklets/leaflets
- Web site (www.crisuricurate.go.ro)
- Public meetings
- Education/Awareness campaigns

Activities under ICPDR

- **Danube Day, June 29**
  
  Promoting „Danube Solidarity”
  Connecting people
  Joining forces
  Facilitating discussions & work sessions

- **Danube Box** - an education tool - assisting teachers in bringing the Danube closer to the minds and the heard of the future generation
Thank you for your kind attention!