



## **Resolution of the 41<sup>st</sup> IAD conference “Tributaries as Key Elements in Sustainable Management of the Danube River Basin” in Sibiu, Romania**

From 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, about 60 scientists and representatives of the Danube River Basin countries have met in Sibiu at the 41<sup>st</sup> international IAD conference with the guiding topic “Tributaries as Key Elements in Sustainable Management of the Danube River Basin”. The general agreement that interdisciplinary and participatory, transdisciplinary environmental research is the basis for environmentally sound and well-integrated sustainable societal progress is the firm basis for the establishment in 1956 and the further development of the International Association for Danube Research in the Danube region as an integral part of the scientific community increasing knowledge and scientific excellence as well as informing water management in Europe.

In recent years the role of IAD as a network and a communication platform between scientists and representatives of water administration has led to very good forums for discussing and exchanging experiences among the scientific community in order to organize more efficiently joint efforts for realization of such important issues like the concrete implementation of European Water Framework Directive (WFD) in the Danube River Basin in the form of the updated Danube River Basin Management Plan in 2015. This includes critical issues related to the current practice of implementation of water infrastructures, the European Strategy for the Danube Region initiating for example the Danube Sturgeon Task Force (DSTF) leading to an EUSDR flagship project, as well as the involvement in other EUSDR Flagship projects such as Danube:Future, DREAM and Danubius-RI and recent activities to address the issue of invasive alien species (DIAS – Danube Invasive Alien Species).

The 41<sup>st</sup> international IAD conference is well in line with the successful past of 60 years of IAD and highlighted the sensitive issues with regard to the Danube and particularly its tributaries as key elements and future challenges for particular sub-catchments and their contribution to the whole region. The worldwide dimension of global change, including increases in global as well as regional temperature, alteration in flow regime and hydromorphology, hydropower development, emerging issues related to water quality changes and invasive alien species are some of the selected topics presented at the conference.

Under new economic pressures, protected areas and valuable river sections and floodplains, and respective habitats and species of flora and fauna are highly threatened, leading to the decline of services provided by natural ecosystems, which conflicts with the overarching goal of EC towards sustainability. IAD will pursue to contribute to Danube environmental protection by offering continuous scientific support in various projects, initiatives and expert groups.

Following the wide range of presentations and the intense scientific debate during the conference, IAD would like to highlight the importance of strong collaboration networks building up a strong scientific excellence in research and education within the Danube basin and a close cooperation with key stakeholders in the basin to provide sound solutions for future challenges in time.