

Hydrological Processes of the Danube River Basin

Mitja Brilly
Editor

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Perspectives from the Danubian Countries

 Springer

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Preface

The Danube River Basin is shared by 19 countries and there is no river basin in the world shared by so many nations. Europe's second largest river basin with a total area of about 800,000 km² is also home to 83 million people of different cultures, languages and historical backgrounds.

Management of common water sources and overcoming difficulties caused by droughts and floods requires co-operation between the countries. In 1971 these common interests stimulated the hydrologists of – at that time – eight Danube countries to begin regional co-operation in the framework of the International Hydrological Decade of UNESCO. The result of this research was *The Hydrological Monograph of the Danube and its Catchment*, which was published in 1986. Since 1975 this co-operation has continued under the umbrella of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO. In the past 20 years political turbulence has caused an increase in the number of countries, making the co-operation difficult at times. Nevertheless several projects were launched, and a number of reports were produced. At the 22nd Working Meeting of the Regional Hydrological Co-operation of the Danube Countries in the framework of IHP/UNESCO which took place at the XXIVth Conference of the Danubian Countries, in Bled, Slovenia, in 2008, it was decided that those reports would be summarised in one special publication that would include a few additional reports on the common research theme. The editorial board was also nominated. This present publication is the result of a major collaboration and our efforts to bring together the reports and research papers related to the regional co-operation.

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