



Slovenian
Presidency
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6th Forum

of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region
Along the coasts of the shared sea
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River Mura, Austrian-Slovenian co-operation

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Mura treaty, a long history

- Between 1919 and 1939: completion of regulation of River Mura within the scope a bilateral commission
 - 1956: ratification of Mura treaty, which is still in force
- > Since then and actually very close co-operation with Slovenija on all levels.

Scope of Mura treaty and Mura Commission

- Mura and other cross-border rivers including upstream influence
- For practical reasons groundwaters are considered as well
- Broad range of topics including
 - * River training, sediment transport, flood protection, hydroelectric
 - * Water quality and good status of river
 - * Monitoring and warning (for example flood prognosis)

Organisation and multilateral involvement

- Austria and Slovenia are parties of the treaty, each party nominates four members. Experts may be consulted.
- Austria as federal republic is represented by Styria and the federal level. The practical workload is mainly done by Styrian Government.
- Hungary and Croatia are invited to send observers.

Public participation

- The treaty from 1950s does not offer any means of public participation.
- From today´s perspective, this is obviously a shortcoming.
- Therefore Mura Commission decided to initiate the Mura-Forum as public segment, providing each stakeholder interested equal and fair access.
- The results of Mura-Forum are dealt within the Work of Mura Commission.
- Next Mura-Forum will be held mid September 2021 if COVID-19 situation allows an in-person meeting.

Future outlook

- Within a permanently changing world and due to evolving needs and pressures bilateral co-operation will be necessary permanently
- Working with the treaty from 1950 needs to be open-minded to provide a future-proof platform for resolving bilateral relevant water management challenges.
- This bilateral work will have to be part of a wider network of co-operation for example within Danube Commission or the biosphere park.



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