



**“NETWORK OF DANUBE WATERWAY ADMINISTRATIONS”**  
South-East European Transnational Cooperation Programme

**STATUS QUO REPORT ON WATERWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
**Central Directorate for Water and Environment (VKKI)**  
**Hungary**

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## **Legal background of waterway administration**

The legal basis respectively background of Hungarian waterway administration is the following:

(there are as well as different acts, governmental and ministerial decrees in force)

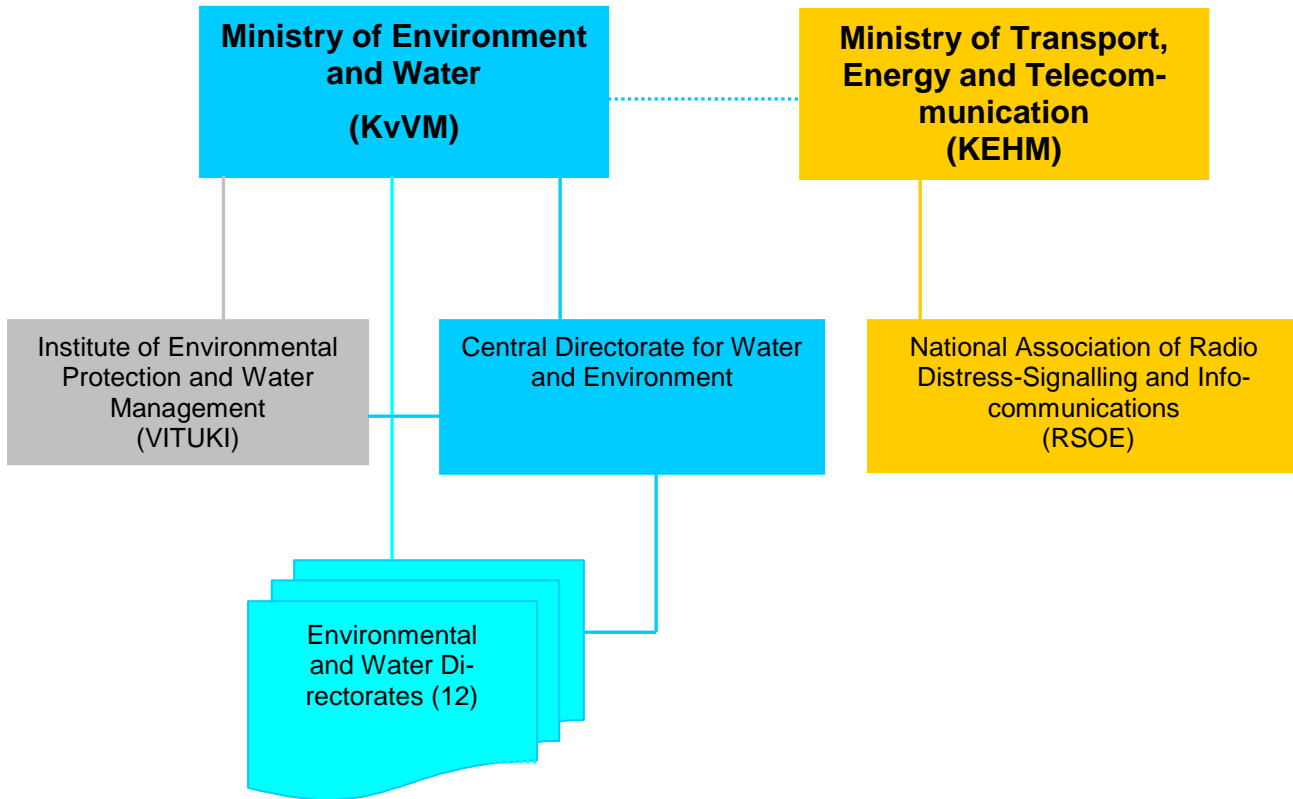
- Act LVII of 1995 on water management
- Act LIII of 1995 on environment protection
- Act XLII of 2000 on water transport
- Government decree 234/1996.(26.12) on the authority and management duties of OVF (*former name of VKKI*) and the territorial directorates
- KöViM Decree 17/2002. (07. 03) on waterway classification
- KvVM Decree 31/2004.(30.12) on the observation of the characteristic of the surface waters

There are numerous of legal relation of the waterway administration to other official national bodies dealing with the waterway Danube:

- Ministry of Transport, Energy and Telecommunication (KEHM)
- National Navigation Authority
- National Transport Authority
- Environmental, Water and Nature Authorities („Green Authorities)
- Water Police(s)

## **Organizational structure and main tasks of the waterway administration**

In Hungary there is a shared responsibility for manage of waterway maintenance and navigation. The next figure shows the general organisational structure of the Hungarian waterway administration.

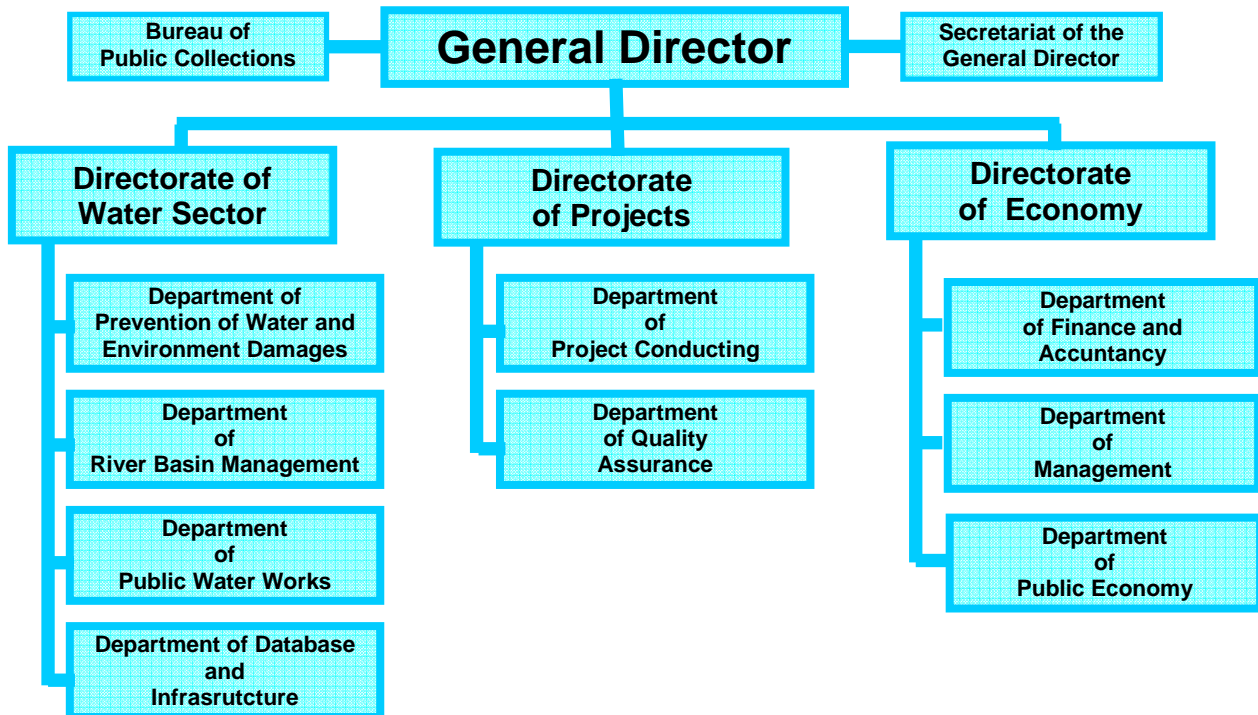


Key:

————— over/subordination relationship  
 ..... co-ordination relationship

(Note: beyond that, it could be some kind of co-ordination relationship between the different participants of the administrative structure.)

Organisational chart within the Central Directorate for Water and Environment (VKKI):



**Ministry of Environment and Water (KvVM)** is responsible for the environmental, nature conservation and water management policies, national strategic planning and management as well as international co-operation in its area of interest. It also prepares the legislation (collaborated with some interested ministries) and plans its own budget. It directs funds - including the support of EU, when possible - to the planning and implementation of river restoration projects. The Ministry directs and supervises all activities both of Central Directorate for Water and Environment (VKKI) and Environmental and Water Directorates. The Ministry does it connecting the Directorates in some parts of its activity directly, and in some other parts through the VKKI.

**Ministry of Transport, Energy and Telecommunication (KEHM)** is responsible for – as one of its numerous obligations - the navigation and transport as well as for the classification of waterways. It does these tasks partly directly and partly through its background organizations like RSOE (National Association of Radio Distress-Signalling and Infocommunications). KEHM collaborates with other ministries – e.g. KvVM - in the field of legislation's preparation connecting of waterway maintenance.

**Central Directorate for Water and Environment (VKKI)** - sharing of the work among the organisations in the field of the water management - is a central operational body: it co-ordinates, supervises, controls the professional activity of Environmental and Water Directorates; co-ordinates the co-operation among of the 12 directorates. VKKI is the medium grade of the network of the water management. This organization is the basis of the protection against flood, ice jamming, access water and accidental water pollution as well as on the phases of prevention and operation. Organizes and co-ordinates the work of the directorates also on the area of river restoration and the waterway maintenance.– including the related ones to the waterways - of regional directorates all around the country.

**Environmental and Water Directorates (KÖVIZIGs)** operate and maintain the state owned water bodies, including numerous major and minor rivers and lakes all around the country. They also attend to harmful effects caused by the maintenance and repair of older waterways and hydraulic engineering structures. Directorates take part as professional participants in the process of permission made by territorial authorities. Its are in close connection in the field of environmental and water management tasks with municipalities, which are situated on their operated area. There are 12 directorates - within three of them along the Danube River) covered the whole territory of Hungary.

The Directorates - within their numerous daily tasks - are directly responsible for the good condition of the rivers including the different categories of waterways considering the international regulations.

Their continuous activities are: river engineering, river bed regulation, checking of pipeline crossing, shoreline regulation, water-level regulation, maintenance and operate of the fairways, making of the marking plans, floating and coastal marking, river mapping/waterways charting, cooperation with the relevant local navigational authorities. They carry out the survey, collection, store, forwarding of data of river bed, shoreline and waterways.

**Institute of Environmental Protection and Water Management** (VITUKI Nonprofit Ltd.) as the one of the state-owned ltd-s, works in close connection with different grades of the governmental establishment. Its main profession is the research, but in addition VITUKI as well as takes part in the planning, preparation works, monitoring and supervisor activities. It functions as a national information centre, which collects, processes and provides environmental data for the use of various interest groups. In addition to this, VITUKI takes care of some duties of authorities. There are some other non – state-owned, governmental organizations participated in research, improvement and innovation of the field of environmental, nature conversation and water management.

**National Association of Radio Distress-Signalling and Infocommunications** (RSOE) is committed to give rise to the information society therefore it does its best to make the technological innovations widespread public. It safeguards and fears for the natural and built environment, and in order to protect it. RSOE uses the most modern technologies, the help of the global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and the geographic information system (GIS), especially in the field of inland navigation and disaster management.

Currently, as a prominently public benefit organization, RSOE in cooperation particularly with governmental administrations, or rather with organizations which the latter have control, over do those activities, with that according to the relating regulations and agreements it constantly supports the work of the governmental sphere. Besides this RSOE pays accentuated attention to the tasks of Hungary steamed from its EU mem-

bership, therefore RSOE with its international partners constantly takes part in different national and other projects co-financed by the EU.

One of some professional areas of RSOE's activity is the operation and development of river information services in Hungary ("[www.pannonris.hu](http://www.pannonris.hu)"). By virtue of the contract made with the National Transport Authority RIS in Hungary is provided by the RSOE. About the available river information services in Hungary more information can be found on the above mentioned website.

Especially among Danube River are three responsible water directorates, as follows:

- North Trans-danubian Environmental and Water Directorate (ÉDU KÖVIZIG - headquarters: Győr) rkm 1850 and 1708 (142 kms) From western state border to estuary of Ipoly River. Fairway stretch is between rkm 1811 and 1708.
- Middle Danube Valley Environmental and Water Directorate (KDV KÖVIZIG - headquarters: Budapest) rkm 1708 and 1560 (148 kms) From estuary of Ipoly River to (bridge of) Dunaföldvár
- Lower Danube Valley Environmental and Water Directorate (ADU KÖVIZIG - headquarters: Baja) rkm 1560 and 1433 (127 kms). From (bridge of) Dunaföldvár to southern state border.

However, the participants of this administrative structure have a lot of other tasks but this description above includes only ones, which are connected to the waterway administration

Main responsibilities/tasks of the waterway administration are: carry out river engineering, river bed regulation, shoreline regulation, water-level regulation, checking of pipeline crossing, maintenance and operate of the fairways, making of the marking plans,



floating and coastal marking, carry out river mapping/waterways charting - cooperation with the relevant local navigational authorities. They carry out the survey, collection, store, forwarding of data as well as of the river bed, shoreline and fairways.

### **Available resources of the waterway administration**

The main technical assets of the waterway administration

- marking vessels with skipper and crew (3\*2 among the Danube stretch – operated by the responsible water directorate – supervised by VKKI),
- surveying vessels with skipper and crew (3\*2 among the Danube stretch – operated by the responsible water directorates – supervised by VKKI + 1 pc operated by VITUKI),
- floating & coastal marks (according to necessity),
- surveying equipment (connecting the survey vessels)
- icebreakers (3\*2 vessels with skipper and crew among the Danube stretch - operated by the responsible water directorates – supervised by VKKI)),

Occasionally, in case of a special task there is possibility to move some staff and/or equipment from the other water directorates from the rest of the country.

In the field of the financial resources the mechanism for determining of annual budget is periodic budget negotiations – there is no fixed budget on a legal basis.

## SWOT analysis of Danube waterway maintenance

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ well organized survey, data collection, transfer, publicity</li> <li>+ continuous 24/365 duty</li> <li>+ correct connection with neighbouring country in the joint stretch (Slovakia)</li> <li>+ well qualified staff</li> <li>+ well-operated monitoring system</li> <li>+ existing general knowledge on waterway maintenance thanks to the increased amount of information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- dependent on water levels</li> <li>- quality of research and monitoring information/data are varying</li> <li>- assessment of effects of restoration is scarce</li> <li>- monitoring network is sufficient only on the three large lakes</li> <li>- joint ownership of water areas hinders some projects because receiving the approval of owners can be difficult</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ development of equipment</li> <li>+ development of mapping/charting methods</li> <li>+ use of modern floating marks</li> <li>+ use of speed marking vessels</li> <li>+ application of RIS</li> <li>+ enhance of cross-border cooperation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- co-operation between/among the different ministries not enough good</li> <li>- there are too many bottlenecks (51 places)</li> <li>- lot of vessels are (very) old</li> <li>- state has got a few sources for maintenance and development</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">-</p>