

## Danube Ecological Corridor

international seminar

28th of March 2018

Dear guests, dear friends!

It is not only a coincidence that our Ministry of Agriculture stands in front of the Parliament, and it is not a coincidence neither that the Parliament stands at the bank of the Danube. The Danube is not simply a geographical object; it is not simply a surface water-course. The Danube runs in our heart.



In the water catchment area of the Danube one can find 19 countries, and it involves 5 of the continent great bio-geographic units. This means an incredibly affluent nature, an abundant biodiversity. In the same time it also means sensibility of the ecologic balance.



It is trivial that problems of the Danube do not respect borders. But this is why it is a special joy to welcome now experts who arrived from remote areas.

It is also true that Danube does not respect the split of sectors, the differences of professions. Problems come together, in kind of packages. Danube unfolds problems together, and it is not necessarily helpful to cut them into engineering issues, environmental questions, financial challenges or other problems. Irrigation comes with fishing, water purification with nature conservation, transport with tourism and so on.

In many times things in themselves are not good or bad, are not black or white. Tourism for example can bring reliable livelihood, good reputation, respect and protection of natural values. In the same time it can bring also the traffic of oversized hotel-ships from abroad, and the advertisement of Disneyland-type sights. The things around the Danube can be good and bad in the same time.

Natural diversity of the Danube valley goes together with its cultural diversity. As we have to protect the plants and animals living here, we also have to protect dialects, folk arts and traditions. We think that these are also values to be protected. Among others the institute of Hungaricums and National park Products are for this purpose. Both will appear in our agenda.

Protection of Danube is not something that is ready and perfect. The river is also changing continuously – partly naturally, and partly reflecting human activities. New needs also appear, and these needs have to be harmonized and to concert.

I believe that these needs and plans can be harmonized.

I believe that we can find agreements that satisfy all stakeholders.

And agreements that satisfy the river Danube as well.

Thank you for your attention!



*An article summarizing the event: <http://eionet.kormany.hu/danube-ecological-corridor>*