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Discussions

Interactive comment on "Cooperation of hydrologists from the Danube River Basin" *by* Stevan Prohaska et al.

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The research methodology based on the results of the collaboration so far: conference reports, formal coordination meetings, mutual correspondence, other publications and, above all, the authors' personal experience. Prof dr. Stevan Prohaska actively participated in the preparation of the basin water balance reports (Stančík and Jovanović. et al., 1988) and has also been actively engaged in all conferences since 1969. Prof Brilly has been actively involved in the work of the Cooperation DRB from 1991, and he is the editor of the book Hydrological Processes of the Danube River Basin and, between 2017 and 2020 leading the IHP DANUBE. Dr Pavol Miklánek is actively involved in the work of the IHP DANUBE since 1989, and in 1999–2002 he was head.

Conclusions Successful long-term international cooperation requires, above all, the interests of economic or other activities for cooperation. The involvement of hydrologic scientists in basic research in the Danube basin mainly driven by navigation and its need for accurate water level forecasts. Namely, every inch of water surface counts and is important when navigating. However, interest in navigation is present in all countries along the fairway. It is also a water activity in which cooperation is developing well and fostering trust between countries in cooperation and hydrologic data exchange. Cooperation is relatively easy and without major problems, if experts lead it in the field. The higher is the level of their knowledge, the more successful is the collaboration and the better are the results. The problems arise mainly due to the lack of knowledge or improper background of the representatives of the countries nominated, mainly by policy or country administration. Formally supported cooperation in hydrological research in international river basins ensures their sustainable development. Informal meetings at scientific conferences enhance social contacts, mutual trust and collaboration between scientists not necessarily involved in the work of NC IHP. The long-term cooperation of the Danube countries in hydrology is an excellent example of relatively intensive, and still voluntary, the collaboration of experts from more than ten countries of the most international river basin of the world (up to 19 countries including some countries with very minor share on the basin area). This long-term Cooperation provides a wide range of detailed hydrological knowledge to expert community and stakeholders within the river basin. But it can also serve as stimulus and inspiration for other international river basins to prepare their assessments applying the selection of topics, the methodologies and knowledge obtained in the Danube River Basin. The Cooperation of the Danube countries in the framework of the IHP UNESCO has its limitations as well. The Cooperation is focused on the quantitative hydrology and some aspects of the water management, omitting other vital issues as water quality, ecohydrology, water and society, the involvement of the stakeholders, and others. In the case of the Danube Basin, these aspects are the focus of the ICPDR collaboration, and both frameworks are, in fact, complementary. It will be beneficial if both partnerships

could find a way for closer collective work. Management and implementation of water policy require long-term plans and persistent long-term work. The results do not come overnight. The coordination work of the IHP Danube will also continue successfully.

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