



**ČEZMEJNI NAČRT ZA INOVATIVNO TRAJNOSTNO UPRAVLJANJE
MEJNE MURE IN IZBOLJŠANJE OBVLADOVANJA
POPLAVNE OGROŽENOSTI**

**GRENZÜBERSCHREITENDER MANAGEMENTPLAN ZUR INNOVATIVEN
NACHHALTIGEN BEWIRTSCHAFTUNG DER GRENZMUR UND ZUR
VERBESSERUNG DES HOCHWASSERRISIKOMANAGEMENTS**

Deliverable D.T1.3.1

Overview of stakeholder proposals

Abstract

This report presents the results of stakeholder involvement activities executed in the preparation of the Management plan border Mura 2030 within deliverable D.T1.3.1 – Measure Concept for the Border Mura of project goMURra. In the report an overview of four stakeholder engagement events executed in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 within the project goMURra is given.

The description of executed events includes also an overview of received stakeholder proposals on the discussed topics of each event. These descriptions are focused on topics related to the preparation of the concept of measures for border Mura. In the synthesis an overview of all gathered stakeholder proposals received in all organised events is given. This synthesis was used as a basis for executing final actions for preparing the concept of measures that forms the core of the Management plan border Mura 2030.

Kurzfassung

Dieser Bericht fasst die Ergebnisse der durchgeführten Aktivitäten zur Einbindung der Stakeholder bei der Erstellung des Managementplans Grenzmur 2030 im Rahmen des Deliverables D.T1.3.1 des Projekts goMURra zusammen. Der Bericht umfasst eine Übersicht über vier Veranstaltungen mit Stakeholdern, die in den Jahren 2019, 2020 und 2021 im Rahmen des Projekts goMURra stattfanden.


Bei der Übersicht der einzelnen Veranstaltungen wird eine Zusammenfassung der Vorschläge und Kommentare der Stakeholder auf die betreffenden Fragen innerhalb einer Veranstaltung vorgelegt. Der Bericht konzentriert sich dabei auf die Themen im Zusammenhang mit der Erstellung des Maßnahmenkonzepts für die Grenzmur. Abschließend folgt eine kurze Übersicht über alle Vorschläge und Kommentare seitens der Stakeholder in allen organisierten Veranstaltungen. Die Schlussfolgerungen des Berichts bildeten die Grundlage für die Durchführung der Aktivitäten zur Erstellung des Maßnahmenkonzepts, des Kernstücks des Managementplans Grenzmur 2030.

Izveček

To poročilo povzema rezultate izvedenih aktivnosti udeležbe deležnikov v pripravi Načrta upravljanja mejna Mura 2030 v okviru priprave dosežka D.T1.3.1 projekta goMURra. Poročilo vsebuje pregled štirih dogodkov z deležniki izvedenih v letih 2019, 2020 in 2021 v sklopu projekta goMURra.

V pregledu posameznih dogodkov je podan povzetek predlogov in komentarjev deležnikov na obravnavana vprašanja posameznega dogodka. Pri tem se poročilo osredotoča na teme vezane na pripravo koncepta ukrepov za mejno Muro. V zaključku je podan strnjen pregled vseh predlogov in komentarjev pridobljenih s strani deležnikov v vseh organiziranih dogodkih. Zaključki poročila so bila podlaga za izvajanje aktivnosti priprave koncepta ukrepanja, ki je jedrni del Načrta upravljanja mejna Mura 2030.



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TABLE OF CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION	5
2. GATHERED STAKEHOLDER PROPOSALS	6
2.1. Bilateral conference Radenci 8 th – 9 th May 2019	6
2.2. Core goals and guiding principles, May 2020	6
2.3. Stakeholder workshop about measures types and corridor for measures, 19 th January 2021	7
2.3.1. Slovene discussion group report	8
2.3.2. Austrian discussion group report	10
2.3.3. Poll results	10
2.4. Stakeholder workshop on the proposal of measures, 8 th July 2021	12
2.4.1. Slovene discussion group report	12
2.4.2. Austrian discussion group report	13
3. SYNTHESIS	14
4. LITERATURE	16

FIGURES

Figure 1: Poll results of question no 6.....	11
Figure 2: Poll results of question no 7.....	11

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to give an overview of stakeholder proposals for the development of measures to be included in the Management Plan Border Mura 2030.

In the report an overview of stakeholder proposals gathered from executed stakeholder engagement activities is given.

- Bilateral conference “the future of border Mura”, Radenci, 8th – 9th May 2019
- Stakeholder feedback to the draft version of the “core goals and guiding principles” for the management plan border Mura 2030, May 2020
- Bilateral online stakeholder workshop about the Management Plan border Mura 2030 measures types and corridor for measures, 19th January 2021
- Bilateral online stakeholder workshop on the proposal of measures for the Management plan border Mura 2030, 8th July 2021

2. GATHERED STAKEHOLDER PROPOSALS

This chapter provides an overview of received stakeholder proposals for developing measures for the Management Plan Border Mura 2030.

2.1. Bilateral conference Radenci 8th – 9th May 2019

On the 2nd day of the bilateral conference in Radenci on which more than 70 experts and stakeholders discussed the future of border Mura, several workshops in smaller groups were organised. More information on the event is available on the project website www.gomurra.eu. Within the workshop three key questions were discussed, with one of them being “What are the key elements of the Management plan border Mura 2030?”.

During the discussion of these questions (and also discussion of other topics) several proposals for measure development were gathered. After the conference, 4 reports on discussions in four work groups were made (Zupančič 2019, Repnik-Mah 2019, Wimmer 2019 and Jöbstl 2019). These reports include the following proposals that also refer to the development of measures for the “Management Plan Border Mura 2030”:

- To include also side channels not only Mura riverbed
- To study land ownership and land use (land management)
- To consider importance of maintenance (of existing structures and new measures)
- To consider also tourism and leisure related developments/options
- To prepare a financial scheme for measures
- To consider also lower Mura
- To consider also invasive species
- To use the polluter pay principle (regarding existing energy use) also in funding measures
- Certain concrete locations/measures proposed:
 - Improved biological continuity of Ceršak dam, restoration of old Plitvica, revitalisation of Mele Oxbow, lateral connection with Mele gravel pit

2.2. Core goals and guiding principles, May 2020

Within the preparation of the Strategy for the Managementplan Border Mura 2030 (deliverable D.T1.5.1) the intended stakeholder workshop was replaced (due to COVID 19 restrictions) by including stakeholders in a written form in May 2020. The proposal of a strategic text was sent out to relevant stakeholders in Slovenia and Austria and written feedback was received. The action was carried out separately for Slovene and Austrian stakeholders (since both national versions of the strategic text were discussed). After the

received feedback, an analysis was carried out and. Although the main goal of the action was to receive feedback on strategic goals for border Mura, certain stakeholders provided also feedback relevant for measure development. The received feedback that relates to measure development could be summarised as follows:

- To include also the problem of fine sediments
- To include the flushing management of the power plants upstream
- The importance of mill channels (Enajstmlinski potok) and the “Grabenlandbäche” (tributaries)
- To include the improvement of the flooding dynamics of the alluvial forests and meadows
- To include the synergies with the biosphere reserve and the green belt
- To include groundwater measures:
 - Securing the groundwater for drinking water production
 - Preservation or improvement of extensive groundwater recharge
 - Improvement of the groundwater quality situation
- To include stakeholder and public involvement
- To carry out activities bilaterally
- Certain concrete locations related proposals:
 - To prepare an expert opinion regarding Ceršak dam renewal
 - To stabilize the riverbed with technical means (numerous low sills)

2.3. Stakeholder workshop about measures types and corridor for measures, 19th January 2021

To discuss the activities of measures development within project goMURra with relevant stakeholders a virtual workshop was organised on 19th of January 2021. More information on the event is available on the project website www.gomurra.eu During the workshop some 70 stakeholder representatives from both countries were presented the actual status of activities of WP T1 on developing measures. After that, the stakeholders divided into two groups to discuss and give feedback on following questions:

1. What is the potential of the Mura and how can it be used best?
(question as a basis of discussion)
2. What advantages do you see from the presented approach and related corridor?
(question as a basis of discussion)
3. Would you suggest alternative or additional measures to the presented measure types ABC to reach the defined goals of the MP2030?
(question as a basis of discussion)
4. Can you share more information for the development of envisaged measures?
(no discussion, only written feedback requested)
5. Is there anything else you would like to share?
(no discussion, only written feedback requested)

6. In what way can cross-border cooperation be efficiently implemented in your opinion?
(poll question)
 - a. No cross-border cooperation is required when planning measures
 - b. Separate national planning of measures and regular coordination between the planning teams
 - c. Joint planning groups for individual sections and a joint process of developing measures and planning
7. What kind of stakeholder participation are you preferring for the detailed planning and executing of the measures (multiple answers possible)?
(poll question)
 - a. Information on website
 - b. Public information booth
 - c. Information in the community newspaper
 - d. Invitation for statements
 - e. World cafe
 - f. Public Workshop
 - g. Round table

The decision to divide the stakeholders into two groups was needed in order to get more feedback from stakeholders, since discussion in large groups (about 70 people) is hard to manage. The decision to divide stakeholders into two language groups (one Slovene and one German) was taken to allow both stakeholders to discuss these relevant issues in their native language and without translations, which tend to hinder the discussions. It was planned to get feedback from questions 1. to 5. within separate discussion groups, while stakeholders answered the poll questions (6. and 7.) in the joint session.

2.3.1. Slovene discussion group report

Due to time constraints (due to prolongation of the first part of the workshop, the available time for discussions needed to be reduced) one question was not discussed (question no. 3). The results of discussion in the discussion group could be summarised as follows:

- Acknowledgements:
 - Project development shows good collaboration between sectors (especially nature protection) and this should continue
 - Project is a good example of analysing a river in a broader spatial extents (not limiting to river banks) – a „Water spatial plan“
 - Measure effectiveness has already been assessed but should be upgraded (also cost effectiveness)
- Comments:
 - Improving border Mura is a prerequisite for reaching/maintaining goals on downstream sections

- Developing measures depends on possible other developments on Border Mura (e.g. energy use in Ceršak)
- Besides mid-term development, certain acute problems need to be addressed as well (e.g. composting plant Ceršak)
- Proposals for further work:
 - Assess effects of sediment discontinuity and regulation on river deepening. Proposed measures should reflect the relations between these two crucial pressures. Use of the „polluter pays“ principle is proposed.
 - An assessment of viability of re-establishing sediment continuity is proposed.
 - In developing measures (especially direct gravel introduction) the quality of used material needs to be analysed. Polluted material (chemical, biologically...) is not to be used.
 - Further measures development should include climate change analysis (e.g. on hydrology with effects on sediment transport and groundwater levels). Climate change analysis is required for certain funding possibilities (EU funds).
 - To include also mill channels related developments (Enajstmlinski potok)
 - To include in further developments on border Mura also topic of suspended sediment.
 - To upgrade the assessment of measure effectiveness (also costs)
 - To think about how to reach the desired state of measures (stages of implementation)
 - To present results to local population as a crucial driver for executing measures.
 - To consider land ownership and land management
 - To consider effects on drinking water utilities in Segovci

Since question no. 3 was not discussed in the workshop on 19.1., it was decided to have a short discussion on this question within a broader group in DRSV. Although this does not provide a full compensation, DRSV thinks it does provide a sufficient workaround, since question no. 3 is relevant especially from the water management point of view. A discussion on this question was held on 12.2.2021 with the following conclusions:

- Measure types ABC are a good way forward
- Two additions are proposed:
 - On certain locations where bed stability is crucial for existing infrastructure, also technical measures should be proposed, if measures ABC do not provide sufficient stability. If to be executed, technical measures should be designed to reach also other goals (connectivity, securing mill channels inflow etc.)
 - In addition to measure types ABC (with time-wise limited effects), develop measures for long term improvement (re-establishing sediment continuity)

2.3.2. Austrian discussion group report

Although the time for the discussion group was limited, all questions were discussed shortly. The results could be summarised as follows:

- Comments:
 - The potential of border Mura as an ecosystem is undisputed
 - Potential of border Mura is currently very limited - action required
 - Advantages seen from presented approach and related corridor:
 - Improvement of flood protection
 - Natura2000 - Development of succession areas and new riparian forest stages
 - Diverse synergetic effects: relaxation, nature conservation, biosphere reserve, etc.
- Proposals for further work:
 - No real alternative to BC, but it involves a number of questions: above all purchase of land - with the involvement of rural institutions, start now if possible
 - Action type BC is to be aimed for, as even distribution between SI / AT
 - Not only purchase of land, also alternative options for the provision of land need to be used (e.g. contract use solutions, example Bregenzer Arche)
 - Land management as a future task (land management strategy)
 - It is not known when there is a risk of riverbed breakthrough, so it is essential to accelerate the development of measures
 - Use the bed load potential of the upstream power plants, to do this immediately start a dialogue with the energy sector; The flushing concept was started 3 years ago, effects will only appear after approx. 10 years
 - Cooperation with WLV regarding sediment household in the basin of the Mur
 - Don't forget the existing weir in Cersak - include in considerations of the project
 - Representation of the macroeconomic damage to the region in the event of riverbed breakthrough and communication in the project room (public)
 - Communication to the public / raising awareness

2.3.3. Poll results

Feedback on both poll questions (6. and 7.) are presented in the following charts (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

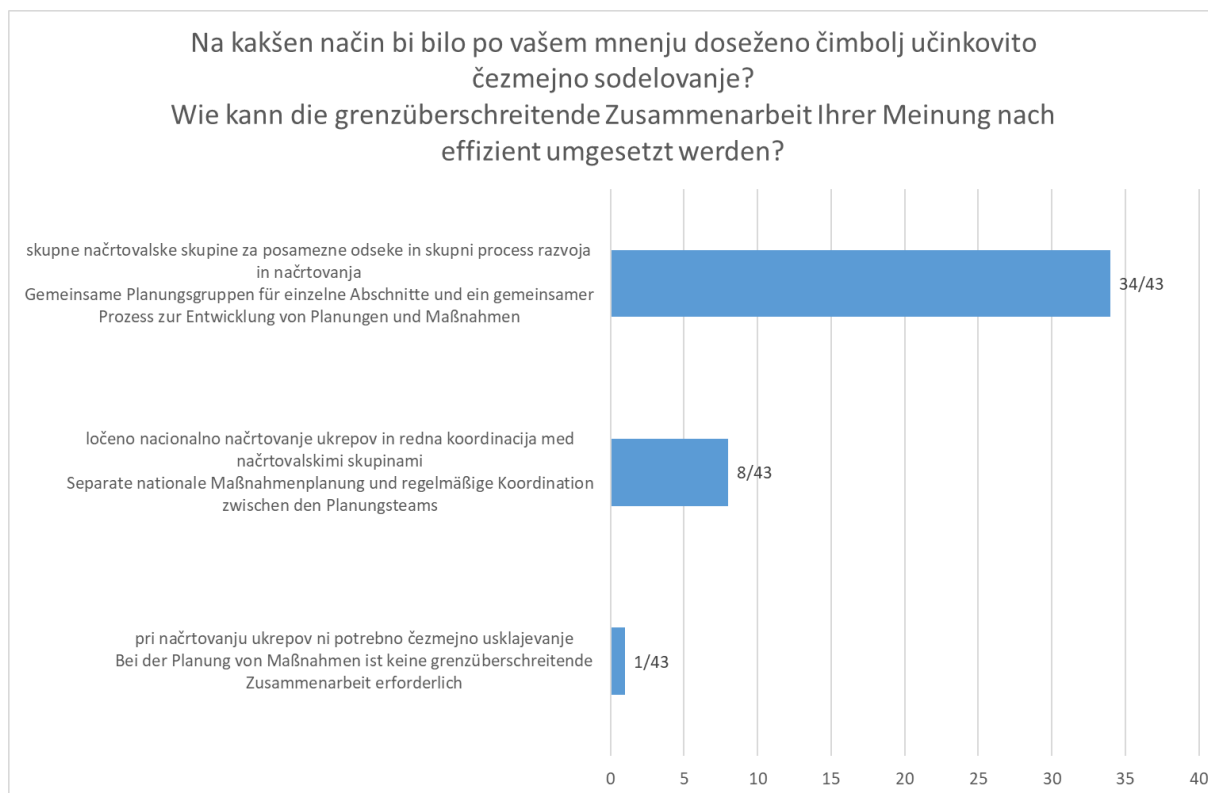


Figure 1: Poll results of question no 6.

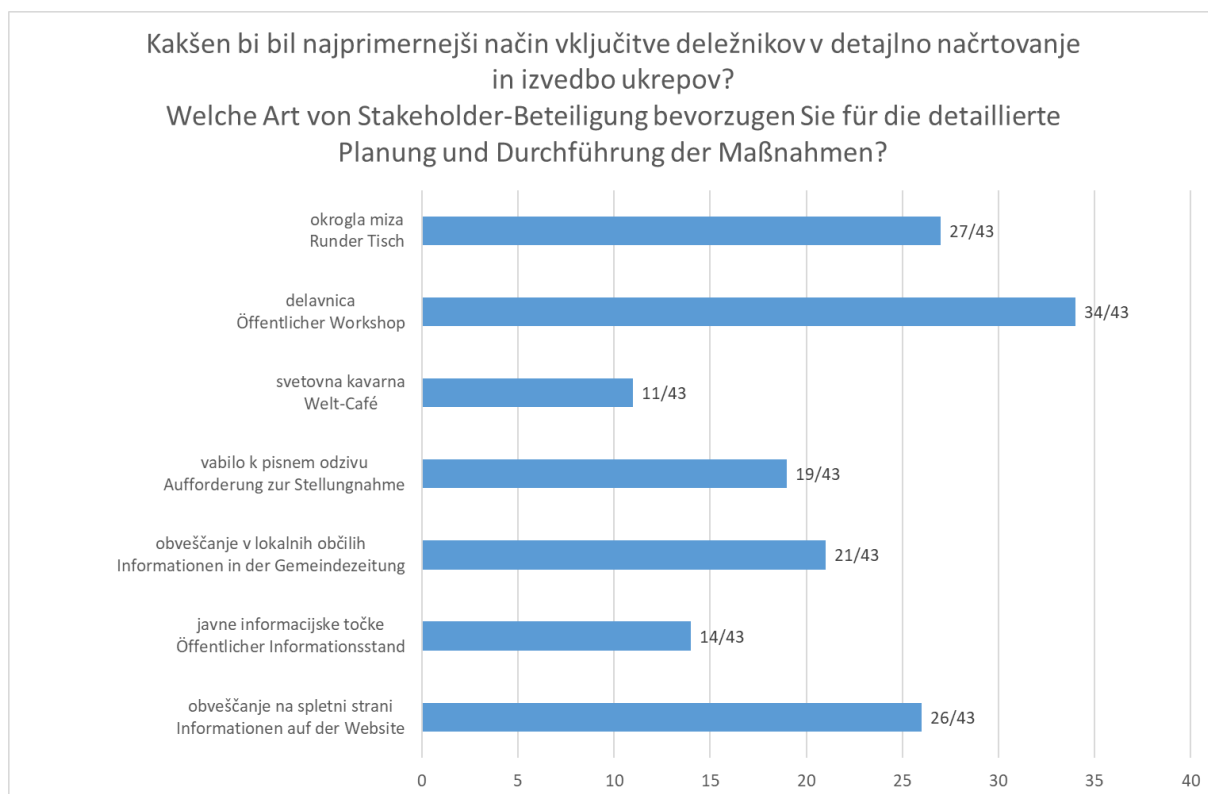


Figure 2: Poll results of question no 7.

2.4. Stakeholder workshop on the proposal of measures, 8th July 2021

Based on the conclusions of the stakeholder workshop held on January 19th 2020, the project team continued its work in preparing the measures concept on how to reach the defined core goals. To present and discuss the draft of the concept of measures another web stakeholder workshop was organised on July 8th 2021. More than 50 people attended the workshop. Detailed information on the workshop is available on the project website www.gomurra.eu.

- On the workshop the project team presented the executed activities and discussion was held on two topics:
 - Measures to reach the defined core goals
 - Structure and content of the Management plan border Mura 2030

Similarly as in the previous workshop the discussion was held in two smaller groups. During the discussion the following questions were addressed:

- How can you as a stakeholder contribute to accelerate the implementation of the proposed measures?
- Do you see any innovative approaches to implementing the measures?
- Where do you as a stakeholder and/or as an inhabitant see the greatest benefits for the border region, created by goMURra project?

2.4.1. Slovene discussion group report

During the discussion on the first question the crucial steps in implementation of the measures were listed:

- land acquisition;
- incorporating the proposed measures in relevant official documents (especially in spatial plans) and
- promotion of activities in the public (development of a communication strategy).

It was discussed that stakeholders can contribute on their field of work: e.g. experts in future measure planning, municipal employees in preparing spatial plans etc.

On the second question the discussion turned into identifying approaches that would be different (and better) than how projects have been held in the past. The following topics were pointed out:

- it is crucial that a single entity (or person) would be driving further works (land acquisition, communication with municipalities...)
- this entity could be connected with the developing management body of the biosphere park

- a possible way would be to prepare a national spatial plan for execution of proposed measures
- use alternative funding sources by applying the “polluter pay principle” (e.g. regarding lack of bedload)

On the third question the discussion confirmed the presented benefits (riverbed stabilisation, improved flood risk, improved safety of water supply etc). As a crucial benefit of the local communities the possibility of sustainable tourism development was pointed out. In municipalities of Apače, Šentlj and Gornja Radgona the see possibility of such development with execution of proposed measures.

2.4.2. Austrian discussion group report

The Austrian group merged the discussion on the first two questions. Two topics were pointed out:

- To reach the envisaged results it is necessary to establish a structure and to carry out an operationalisation. For this it is necessary to clarify the institutional framework (one overall project, several projects, environmental impact assessment /strategic environmental assessment, approval procedures, how can the measures be executed bilaterally?, questions regarding funding, resources etc.)
- The involvement of the population is considered as crucial, especially regarding providing information and building up motivation. In this process, the following should be considered: landowners, development of professional strategy concepts, generating enthusiasm, possibly carrying out pilot projects, finding synergies with the biosphere reserve.

On question no. three stakeholders see biggest benefits in:

- Improved recreation and free time possibilities:
Concentrated around centres, organisation of visitor guidance but also securing reserved zones for ecology.
- Fishing and hunting:
Which would provide incentive primarily for local and regional population.
- Water supply:
Any measure that stabilizes groundwater levels is beneficial for securing the water supply.

3. SYNTHESIS

Based on the gathered stakeholder proposals on developing measures within the Management plan Border Mura 2030 a synthesis was prepared. The goal of the synthesis is to provide one list of stakeholder proposals that would include all stakeholder input and would be used as a working tool in preparing best possible measures on the Border Mura.

All received proposals could be merged as follows:

- Some general topics are appearing in all stakeholder events:
 - The importance of cross-border work (if possible fully bilateral development, planning and execution)
 - The importance of including stakeholders (and also general public)
- Stakeholders also frequently point out topics that were perhaps not adequately addressed in goMURra:
 - Fine sediments management and coarse sediment continuity
 - To consider downstream effects (lower Mura)
 - To consider leisure and recreation
 - To consider the importance of maintenance (of existing water structures and of developed measures)
 - To cooperate closely with the energy sector (Ceršak and upstream)
- Development related proposals:
 - To assess relative contributions of two main pressures (sediment discontinuity vs. river regulation) to current problems
 - Provide a long-lasting solution (re-establishment of bedload continuity) – start a dialogue with upstream HPP and WLV (Forest Engineering Service in Torrent and Avalanche Control) immediately
 - To analyse suspended sediment and flushing related issues (impacts)
 - To assess socio-economic impacts of a possible riverbed breakthrough
 - Land management as a future task (land management strategy)
- Measure types related proposals/comments:
 - Measure types B and C are a good way to go
 - Even distribution of B and C measure types on both countries is to be sought
 - To envisage also complementary technical solutions at certain locations where riverbed stability is crucial
 - To prepare also measures on side-arms, mill channels and tributaries
 - To include the improvement of the flooding dynamics of the alluvial forests and meadows
 - To include synergies with the biosphere reserve and the green belt
 - To include groundwater related measures (securing drinking water supply, improving groundwater recharge and groundwater quality)
 - To consider in measure development land use and land ownership including alternative solutions for land provisioning

- To assess measure effectiveness (including cost effectiveness)
 - To define stages of implementation (which measures first)
 - To define funding possibilities (considering the polluter pays principle) and a financial scheme of measures
 - To prepare a climate change analysis (relevant also from funding perspective)
 - To consider material quality (e.g. gravel introduction - pollution) also in relation to invasive species
- Proposals regarding concrete locations:
 - To consider locations included in the coop MDD Action plan and project Mura Natura
 - Possible restoration of old Plitvica; reavitalisation of Mele oxbow and connection to Mele gravel pit
 - Improved biological continuity of Ceršak dam
 - Possible negative effects on drinking water utilities at Segovci and Podgrad
- And one proposals not in line with the already confirmed vision:
 - To stabilize the riverbed with technical means (numerous low sills)

Additionally to proposals on how the concept of measures should be prepared, stakeholders shared their views also on good practise for implementing the proposed measures. These include:

- Measures need to be prepared in an operational way that gives good grounds for further implementation (concrete measure definition, clear institutional framework etc.)
- In order to provide timely and effective implementation, several further steps need to be taken (land acquisition; incorporation of proposals into strategic documents – e.g. spatial plans; building motivation in local communities by promoting expected benefits)
- In order to secure the implementation of these steps, it is proposed that one entity should take the task of being a driving force for implementation.

This synthesis provides a basis for including stakeholder proposals in the process of preparation of the measures concept of the Management plan for Mura 2030 (Senfter et al. 2021), as well as for the preparation of the measure proposal for mill channels and side arms (Scharf et al. 2021).

4. LITERATURE

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