

## **THE PROTECTION OF THE CHANNEL SYSTEM DANUBE–TISA–DANUBE – THE HISTORY, EVALUATION OF THE COMPLEXITY OF MONUMENTS AND SITES , INTERACTION OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF INFLUENCES, AND THE RISKS**

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### **Abstract**

Channel network and water regulation system has been developed and used for more than two hundred years. Construction of a system of channels, 239 km in length, with sluice dams, pumps and bridges had begun in 1793 to be completed in 1901. A part of that system is still in function. Preserved sluice dams were transformed into locks, swimming pools. 19<sup>th</sup> century pumps with preserved mechanisms are used as auxiliary water plants.

Construction of the channel, including soil drainage, stream channels and navigation, induced economic development and changes in numerous settlements in Bačka. It provided conditions for colonization and cultivation of formerly marshy land. It is for that reason that a great part of the rich cultural and historical heritage of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Bačka may be considered an outcome of this enterprise. Construction of the channel also induced changes in the ecosystem, by disturbing it and enriching it in the same time.

After the construction, begun in 1957, the system encompassing 1.000 km of the basic network (600 of which are navigable) and 17.000 km in the subsystem has impact on, but has also been exposed to various influences from the major part of Vojvodina and the Upper Danube and Tisa valleys. Development and increased exploitation in the period of economic transition are major risk factors for cultural and natural heritage. Well-conceived management in tune with the protection of cultural and natural values of the complex and its environment is the only answer to risks.