Dear colleagues,

We are the National Research Institute for Industrial Ecology – ECOIND, Romania and intend to participate at BS-ERA_NET – Black Sea competition for 2010 with the proposed project: "Pollution Impact Assessment of Municipal and Industrial Effluents Containing Micropollutants upon Danube River and Delta and Mitigation Solutions".

It will be of so much interest to working with you in case of your acceptance of us as a partner in the project. We are searching for a coordinator and a group of scientists and experts from different EU countries and candidate countries to participate at ERA_NET and contribute with our experience in control and mitigation of micropollutants discharged in the river by municipal and industrial treatment plants.

For more information, please visit the following website:
http://www.bs-era.net/main/index.php?we=a29f69fc5263861b5b4150eb088cdae3&wchk=7705214628f0652cb2aeb23e31e754f5&wchk=7705214628f0652cb2aeb23e31e754f5#eoi

Also, we have attached the partner search form completed with our expertise to the project.

Thank you kindly and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
General Manager of National Research for Industrial Ecology – ECOIND, Romania
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The Danube Pollution:

Pollution is a major problem in the Danube River Basin. Nutrient, organic and hazardous pollution are all factors that could result in the Danube failing to meet the EU law. Much has already been done nationally and internationally to analyze and reduce pollution, from Cousteau's expedition in 1991 to 1992 to building new wastewater treatment plants.

The pollution of the Danube, Nitrate leaching
Most countries appear to be at high risk of groundwater pollution from fertilizers, chemicals, untreated sewage and leaching from contaminated soils. 48 million people depend on groundwater sources for drinking water.

Pollution really starts affecting the Danube's water quality after Budapest. The main sources are urban settlements, industry and agriculture, from both point and non-point sources.

Nutrient pollution, mainly from nitrogen and phosphorus, is a serious concern, (*) Nitrogen use doubled from the 1950s to the mid-1980s followed by a substantial reduction in the late 1980s. But today, levels are still almost twice those of the 1950s. (**) The main source of phosphorus is wastewater from urban settlements. Overall phosphorus levels are 20% higher than in the 1950s.

"Eutrophication" through nutrient pollution has contributed to a severe ecological imbalance in the Black Sea. Many species have been heavily impacted, with fish stocks showing alarming declines. Recently, however, there have been reports of recovery in the biological diversity of the northwest part of the Black Sea.

Overall, pollution has declined in the Basin mainly because most economies of the Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries took major hits following political transformation in the late 1980s that affected both industry and agriculture While the Black Sea shows signs of recovery, expected economic improvements in CEE countries could see pollution increase again.

Hundreds of hazardous substances are released into the Danube basin and many pose serious threats to environment and health. Of 33 "priority substances" identified by the EU as hazardous and requiring phase-out within 20 years, most are used in the Danube basin. The biggest threat is from DDT, a pesticide banned in Europe - in Danube samples taken, 71% exceeded permissible levels.

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