

ITC CONFERENCE GRANT SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the grant to the MC Chair.

Action number: CA15206

Conference title: 6th Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science (ISRS2019)

Conference start and end date: 08/09/2019 to 13/09/2019

Conference attendance start and end date: 08/09/2019 to 13/09/2019

Grantee name: Laszlo Galambos

ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE:

The “6th Biennial Symposium of the International Society for River Science (ISRS2019)” was held in Vienna, Austria between 08-13.09.2019. During the ISRS2019 symposium, I attended the full programme, including keynote speeches, presentations in different sessions, poster session, conference dinner, and the conference tour.

I participated on the workshop “WS01- Nature-based solutions at different scales in urban and rural river basins”, which was held on 10th of September. During the discussion about the possibilities of nature-based solutions funding, I proposed the implementation of the concept of PES as an alternative source of funding, that is effective in the conservation and enhancement of natural resources.

On 11th of September, I attended the special session „SP07- Ecosystem services along rivers and floodplains - an integrative tool to assess and optimize river and floodplain management”, in which I had an accepted oral presentation. The topics of this special session were ecosystem services assessments in rivers and floodplains, with the analysis of synergies and trade-offs of ecosystem services, or ecosystem services as a communication tool in decision-making processes. In this session I presented my research on „*Stakeholders participation in the process of development of protected area management plans using the Analytic hierarchy process - AHP and the concept of ecosystem services*“. After my presentation I received questions which I discussed with the participants during the session, but also during the break between the sessions. While presenting my research, I acknowledged the ITC Conference Grant and the CA 15206 Cost Action.

During the ISRS2019 I also attended numerous presentations from different sessions, and participated in the discussions. Some of the topics on the sessions included: land use effects; hydrological and morphological impacts; aquatic ecosystem restoration, conservation and management; river rehabilitation and floodplain restoration: methods and measures for sustainable success; ecological and social landscape-scale drivers of freshwater biodiversity.

IMPACT ON YOUR RESEARCH AND FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

The ITC Conference Grant enabled me to participate on the ISRS2019, to present the results of my PhD research to a broader scientific and expert society. What is more important, I received feedback from experts dealing with ecosystem services. As an oral presenter on the ISRS2019, I received an invitation to submit a paper for the Special issue of the 6th ISRS meeting in Vienna in “River Research and Applications”; titled: *Riverine landscapes as coupled socio-ecological systems*. This special issue will be

published in summer 2020. For me as a PhD student, this possibility for publication is very important for my future career, in order to be visible to the scientific society and to present and promote my work and research.

After the workshop “WS01- Nature-based solutions at different scales in urban and rural river basins”, the organizers discussed with the participants possibilities for future cooperation, including publishing an article containing the results of the workshop.

Being on the ISRS2019 enabled me to meet in person with colleagues with whom we have ongoing application for a project at the Danube Transnational Programme. I also had the opportunity to meet an expert from an EU member state, who is currently engaged on an EU-funded Twinning Project in Serbia. Through my employer, I am involved in this project on a national level.

The conference tour in the Donauauen National Park gave me the opportunity to learn about nature-based river engineering measures and to collect examples of best practice in floodplain and riverine habitats restoration and management.

Participating on the ISRS2019 provided opportunity for networking. I developed many professional contacts for future cooperation. It also enabled me to expand my knowledge, and to gain new scientific perspectives.