The Tisza River Basin as a classroom

In 2013, the ICDPR will provide an internship opportunity as part of a unique programme training the scientists, managers and leaders who will tackle tomorrow’s environmental challenges at the river basin level.

Today’s water management challenges cross traditional boundaries between science and policy. To meet these needs, river managers need interdisciplinary training that integrates scientific research with resource management and policy-making to become agents for change tomorrow.

For McClain, the match is ideal: “I feel quite fortunate to have been afforded the opportunity to work with the ICPDR, as my areas of interest specifically relate to international governance of trans-boundary river basins and researching the policies and mechanisms that guide the management of these areas.”

Bringing experience to the Tisza. McClain’s previous studies have focused on international policy related to river basin management, integrated water resource management, flood mitigation as well as the establishment of flow regimes. She also completed a comparative analysis of environmental flows policy in Africa’s Orange-Senqu River Basin and the Murray-Darling River Basin in Australia.

Since December 2011 she has worked as a consultant for the UN Environment Programme and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environmental Emergencies Section, where she has worked on mainstreaming environmental preparedness and prevention activities as part of a broader framework of humanitarian response.

McClain is looking forward to joining the work in the Tisza Basin. “The Tisza provides a unique landscape”, says McClain, “with remarkable issues that can present larger implications for floodplain management/reconnection, preparedness for environmental emergencies, adaptation to climate change, and multilevel governance in water resources.”

Kirstie Shepherd is a freelance journalist living in Vienna and has called the Danube River Basin home since 2000.