

WHAT IS JDS5?

Coordinated by the **ICPDR** and held every six years, the Joint Danube Survey provides a detailed snapshot of the Danube's health, assessing **water quality**, **biodiversity**, and **pollution** throughout the entire Danube River Basin. Now in its fifth edition, JDS5 builds on the success of previous surveys, uniting a broad network of scientists, institutions, and public participants in an extraordinary act of international collaboration in environmental protection. It is the most comprehensive surface water monitoring effort in the world.

JDS5 AT A GLANCE 🔍

- **108** sampling sites across all **14** Danube countries
- **49** main sites on the Danube & tributaries
- **10** wastewater and **7** groundwater sites
- More than **1,000** scientists from **100+** institutions

WHAT WE MONITOR

JDS5 combines traditional sampling with innovative technologies to assess the state of the river:



Water quality: pollution levels, nutrients, wastewater impact



Biodiversity: environmental DNA (eDNA) detects fish, plants, and microorganisms



Microplastics: measured in water, sediment, and aquatic life



Emerging pollutants: advanced screening for thousands of substances

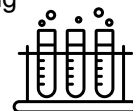


Hydromorphology: river flow, structure, and physical changes

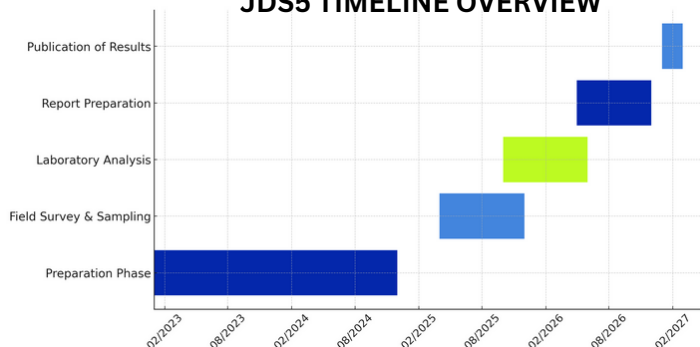
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

JDS5 bridges the gap between science and society. **Citizen science** is a central part of the survey's mission to make science **accessible**, **inclusive**, and **actionable**.

- Students collect water samples using **standardised kits** provided by the Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- **11 Danube countries** participating
- Focus on key indicators: **phosphate**, **nitrate**, **turbidity**
- GPS-tagged, photo-documented, and awarded **JRC certificates**
- Builds awareness and **shared environmental responsibility** through hands-on learning



JDS5 TIMELINE OVERVIEW



WHY IT MATTERS

JDS5 supports **smarter environmental policy**, advances the **EU Water Framework Directive**, and strengthens **transboundary cooperation** to protect the **world's most international river basin** for generations to come.

www.danubesurvey.org

www.icpdr.org

Email: JDS5@icpdr.org

