

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

Priority Area 1a – To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways

NEWSLETTER

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viadonau



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Latest developments within PA1a

Revision of the Action Plan

The revision process of the EUSDR Action Plan is still ongoing. The PA1a Technical Secretariat submitted the proposed actions and targets for the next period of EUSDR implementation and took into consideration the comments on the first draft EUSDR Action Plan, issued by the European Commission in October 2019. The **Final Draft of the New EUSDR Action Plan** is now undergoing EC inter-service consultation. The adoption of the Action Plan as **Staff Working Document** is scheduled for February 2020.

National Action Plans

On 3rd December 2014 the Danube Ministers of Transport endorsed the **Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries**, which was developed within Priority Area 1a. The implementation progress is being monitored by means of the regularly updated National Action Plans. The responsible authorities from each state along the Danube and its navigable tributaries are updating the National Action Plans continuously which are published on the [PA1a website](#). The update of October 2019 is already available on the PA1a website.

Working Group on Administrative Processes

The joint Working Group cooperation between PA1a and PA11 is an ongoing process, with the main aim to simplify, harmonize and digitalize border control procedures.

Each Danube riparian state is currently analyzing the national legislation that might have to be adjusted and will start the needed procedures, in order to apply the standard **DAVID Forms**, a first

set of harmonised border control forms (arrival and departure reports, crew lists as well as passenger list), on a national level.

On 15th October 2019 a very successful meeting of the joint Working Group was held in Kyiv. Participants discussed the necessary steps on the national level to introduce the DAVID forms in their country.

On 11th of December 2019 a meeting between the PA 1a and PA 11 Coordinators took place in Vienna in order to review the activities carried out and the next steps for DAVID Forms implementation. This fruitful cooperation between PA 1a and PA 11 will be continued in the coming years, focusing on the introduction of DAVID forms along the entire Danube and the digitalization of the forms.



PA1a Steering Group Meeting and Final event

The 17th [Meeting of the Steering Group](#) members and the Final Event were organized by PA1a on 4th of December in Bruxelles (Belgium). An overview on the main achievements and results of PA 1a and related projects were presented as well as the future actions to be implemented after 2020. One item on the agenda concerned the embedding of PA1a priorities in the national Operational Programmes for the financing period 2021-2027 during the upcoming programming processes on national level.

Mr. Roland Mayer-Frei of DG REGIO and the PA1a Coordinators offered their support in this process to the Steering Group members.



Croatia's EUSDR Presidency

Romania handed over the [EUSDR Presidency](#) to Croatia. Croatia will hold the Presidency from 1st of November 2019 until 30 of October 2020. **"The Danube Strategy – 10 Years Later"** is the central theme of the Croatian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The main goal is to identify the role of macro-regional cooperation, to evaluate the achieved results and to determine the future direction of its development. The Croatian Presidency of the Danube Region Strategy will provide an opportunity to strengthen the affirmation of macro-regional strategies and territorial cooperation in the Republic of Croatia, the entire Danube Region and the European Union.

The political [objectives](#) of the Presidency are:

- Strengthening the role of regional development
- Creating synergies between macro-regional strategies and the Cohesion Policy
- Cooperation with the countries of the Western Balkans



**picture downloaded from <https://danube-region.eu/2019/11/croatian-presidency-programme/>*

Project implementation

A great number of projects funded under the first Danube Transnational Programme call in 2016 was completed end of June 2019. For information about these projects as well as other ongoing and concluded projects or project ideas, please visit our PA1a [project database](#). **Over 130 projects** are contained in the project database, which is operated and periodically updated by the PA1a Technical Secretariat in the fields of:

- waterway infrastructure and management,
- ports and sustainable freight transport,
- fleet modernization,
- river information services,
- education and jobs,
- administrative processes.

Several filters ease searching for topical project information according to different criteria.

Danube Transnational Programme

2nd call for PACs

The second Danube Transnational Programme call for PACs for financing their activities in the period 2020 – 2022 was launched and the Technical Secretariat of PA1a submitted the needed Application Form. The end of evaluation of the applications and the contract signing is expected in the 1st quarter of 2020.

Cooperation – Danube Commission survey

The Danube Commission is carrying out a survey on the language/languages of communication to be used on the Danube as of 1st January 2025, and whether a regulation different from RAINWAT is required in this regard. We are kindly inviting you to fill in the questionnaire via:

<https://www.danubecommission.org/dc/en/danube-navigation/questionnaire-about-the-communication-languages-on-the-danube/questionnaire/>.

Upcoming events

*The 9th Edition of the **EUSDR Annual Forum 2020** is expected to take place on 22nd and 23rd of October 2020 (TBC).*

Priority Area 1a – Targets & Governance

Priority Area 1a on Inland waterways is coordinated by Romania (Ministry of Transport) and Austria (Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology and via donau). In 2010 the European Commission issued a **Communication establishing the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region** (COM(2010) 715) and the **related Action Plan** containing targets and actions for regional development and establishing the [governance](#) and main principle of the Strategy. Within Priority Area 1a five [targets](#) are being promoted:

1. Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010.
2. Solve obstacles to navigability, taking into account the specific characteristics of each section of the Danube and its navigable tributaries and establish effective waterway infrastructure management by 2020.
3. Develop efficient multimodal terminals at river ports along the Danube and its navigable tributaries to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.
4. Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2020.
5. Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonize education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures.

In order to achieve these [targets](#), the governance structure for Priority Area 1a of the EU Danube Region Strategy has been set up by the Priority Area Coordinators in close cooperation with the European Commission.

As part of the Priority Area 1a structures, a [Steering Group](#) and several [Working Groups](#) have been established.

The Steering Group meetings are the framework that allows each involved country, as well as the European Commission, to provide feedback and to contribute in a practical manner to all decisions needed for achieving the Priority Area 1a targets, in order to ensure a successful implementation of the Danube Region Strategy.

Within the Working Groups project ideas, measures needed, means of cooperation etc. between all stakeholders are discussed. The results of the Working Groups are to be presented to the Steering Group members in order to decide the next steps on a specific topic.

