

## EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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

# NEWSLETTER

Author(s): Technical Secretariat of  
Priority Area 1a

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**EUROPEAN UNION**  
European Regional Development Fund

 **Federal Ministry**  
Republic of Austria  
Climate Action, Environment,  
Energy, Mobility,  
Innovation and Technology

**viadonau**



**Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure**



10 years of transnational cooperation  
10 years of Danube sustainable development  
10 years of transnational projects development  
10 years of new partnerships development

In 2021, the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and with this occasion we would like to thank all PA1a partners and friends for contributing to improving the framework conditions for inland waterway transport in the Danube region and for strengthening cooperation during the past 10 years.

We will continue our activities towards the successful achievement of our common goals!

### *News, facts and events*

#### ***EUSDR Mobile App***

We are pleased to announce the launch of the ***EUSDR Mobile App***, which can be downloaded from Google Play or the AppStore for mobile devices without the need to create an account and without storing user data.

The App provides a ***Living along the Danube*** section which will take the user on a journey through the Danube countries showing the beauties of the region, including cultural routes established by the Council of Europe, traditional

food, recipes and important personalities born in the Danube Region who, through their contributions, shaped the world we live in today.

***Contacts of the EUSDR core stakeholders*** are now at hand within the App!

#### ***NAIADES III Action Plan - Boosting future-proof European inland waterway transport***

On 24th of June 2021 the European Commission adopted the 35-point action plan to boost the role of inland waterway transport in Europe.

The Action Plan aims to accelerate the transition of inland navigation to an emission-free mode of transport and to establish the conditions for digital developments in the sector.

In particular, the Commission is proposing actions in the following areas:

- Shifting more freight to inland waterways
- Transition to zero-emission inland waterway transport
- Smart inland waterway transport
- More attractive and sustainable jobs in inland waterway transport

The objectives of PA1a are in line with the objectives of the NAIADES III Action Plan.

*Details are available at:*

[https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/news/2021-06-24-naiades-iii-action-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/inland/news/2021-06-24-naiades-iii-action-plan_en)

### **Working Group 1 – Waterway and Port Infrastructure & Management**

The updating process for the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries (FRMMP) is ongoing. Waterway managers and experts of the operational services in the waterway administrations of all Danube riparian states discuss key issues and trends in waterway management that need to be considered in the upcoming EU financing period 2021-2027 and the updated FRMMP.

### **Working Group 3 – Fleet Modernisation**

In June 2021, the Technical Secretariat of PA1a drafted the [Discussion paper “Policy recommendation on fleet modernization”](#) which builds on the Strategy published by PA1a in 2019 and considers in-depth analyses and relevant reports published after December 2019. It elaborates two promising policy recommendations, namely **the creation of national aid schemes** and **the development of a strategic research agenda** including technology pathways.

The Policy recommendations are addressed to the public entities of the Danube riparian states and aim to provide guidance on possible short- and long-term measures to improve the environmental and economic performance of the Danube fleet.

### **Working Group 5 – Education & Jobs**

The mandatory implementation of the provisions of Directive (EU) 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation in all EU countries by January 2022 is a matter of concern for all Danube riparian states. The Directive was drafted to further remove barriers to labour mobility in inland navigation and to further streamline the fragmented legal frameworks

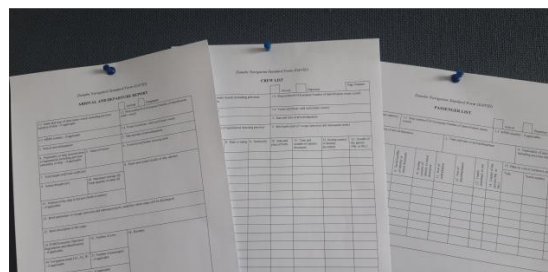
governing the professional qualifications in inland navigation in Europe.

The Directive requires all EU Member States to keep national registers of issued Union certificates of qualification and service record books (as well as logbooks). To facilitate the timely implementation of these national registers, PA1a conducted several bilateral meetings with representatives of the Danube region states as well as a technical exchange meeting and joined the Advisory Board of [COMPETING Project](#). The COMPETING Project is an Erasmus+ Project having as ultimate goal to increase labour mobility in the inland shipping sector.

PA1a will continue to support the Danube region countries in this task, wherever necessary.

### **Working Group 6 Administrative Processes**

In the last years the joint Working Group of Priority Areas 1a (Inland Waterways) and 11 (Security) of the EU's Danube Region Strategy developed a set of so-called Danube Navigation Standard Forms (DAVID). Using the expertise of stakeholders from the shipping sector and control authorities, the data fields of three often used forms (arrival and departure forms, crew lists and passenger lists) were harmonized in an international effort. By now Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Ukraine have introduced the DAVID forms in control procedures thereby replacing the national forms applied until then. Romania and Moldova the two remaining Danube riparian states intend to follow suit until the end of 2021 latest.



At the end of January 2021, the Steering Group Members of PA1a approved the measures to be implemented in the period 2021- 2025 to further improve and harmonize administrative procedures in Danube navigation. The measures were also approved by the PA11 Steering Group.

### **Projects and funding**

A great number of projects funded under the first Danube Transnational Programme call in 2016 was completed end of June 2019. 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.

EUSDR projects can be financed through a significant variety of EU Programmes such as

- European Structural and Investment funds (ESIF)
- European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)
- Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
- Horizon2020
- Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME)
- EU Programme for education, youth and sport (Erasmus+)
- European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI): Investment Plan for Europe

*Details are available at:*

<https://danube-region.eu/projects-and-funding/>

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the PA1a Steering Group**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Group is scheduled for 17 of September 2021 and will focus on updates on latest developments within PA1a, status on updating the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan, discussions on Recommendations on fleet modernization, status on administrative processes.

#### **Danube Business Talks 2021**

*The Danube Business Talks 2021* will take place on 13 of October 2021, in a digital format. The digital Danube Business Talks are intended to highlight the potential of the Danube in terms of freight and passenger navigation, albeit under different framework conditions, and to facilitate a cross-border exchange between companies, authorities and politicians.

**10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the EUSDR Annual Forum 2021 (TBC)** is planned to take place in autumn 2021.

### **Priority Area 1a – Targets & Governance**

*Priority Area 1a on Inland waterways is coordinated by Romania (Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communication) and Austria (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and via donau).*

**ACTION 1:** Contribute to improve waterway and port infrastructure & management.

**TARGET:** Achieve a notable improvement of the fairway conditions and shore side infrastructure along the Danube and its navigable tributaries, confirmed by the waterway users by means of an annual user survey.

**ACTION 2:** Foster business development.

**TARGET:** Contribute to transnational business-to-business (B2B) meetings on an annual basis

**ACTION 3:** Facilitate fleet modernization.

**TARGET:** Promote the use of EU funds for fleet modernisation and support the set-up of national funding schemes.

**ACTION 4:** Support the further roll-out and enhancement of River Information Services.

**TARGET:** Ensure the online provision, availability and interoperability of up-to-date Fairway Information Services in the Danube Region.

**ACTION 5:** Contribute to the enhanced quality of education and jobs.

**TARGET:** Facilitate the implementation of the provisions of Directive 2017/2397 in all Danube riparian states, putting specific emphasis on non-EU riparian states.

**ACTION 6:** Contribute to the simplification, harmonisation and digitalisation of administrative processes.

**TARGET:** Achieve a notable improvement of administrative procedures, especially border controls, in inland navigation on the Danube and its navigable tributaries by 2023, as confirmed by the waterway users by means of user surveys.

*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.*

