

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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

NEWSLETTER

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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

News, facts and events

EUSDR Interactive Brochure was launched

The interactive brochure “EU Strategy for the Danube Region – Stories that make us” was published at

<https://danube-region.eu/communication-tools/multimedia/>

The brochure contains stories from projects, processes, initiatives that were implemented/developed in 10 years of EUSDR. The texts are illustrated by photos or videos, linking the stories also to the entire activity of each priority area.

10th EUSDR Annual Forum in Bratislava

The 10th EUSDR Annual Forum, was jointly organized by the Slovak Republic, the European Commission, the Danube Transnational Programme and with support of the Danube Strategy Point, on 26-27 October 2021. The EUSDR Annual Forum took place in a hybrid format: organizers and presenting participants (panelists and speakers) were physically present in Bratislava, from where the entire Annual Forum was streamed.

Details are available at:

<https://www.eusdr2021.sk/virtual/#/s/archive>

TEN-T package adopted

On 14 of December 2021 the European Commission adopted four proposals that will modernise the EU’s transport system in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal:

- *A smart and sustainable TEN-T*
- *Increasing long-distance and cross-border rail traffic*
- *Intelligent transport services for drivers*
- *Cleaner, greener, easier urban mobility*

Details are available at:

https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news/efficient-and-green-mobility-2021-12-14_en

The new maps/corridors of the proposal are available at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/tentec/tentec-portal/map/maps.html?layerOn=true>

Working Group 1 – Waterway and Port Infrastructure & Management

After almost 7 years of implementation of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries (FRMMP), some of the key issues identified in 2014 are resolved while new topics have emerged that need to be considered in waterway management (e.g. digitalization and climate change). The new topics as well as the next financing period 2021 – 2027 framework led to the need of updating the Master Plan. This process is ongoing, a first draft was already discussed during the 20th Steering Group Meeting on 9th December among waterway managers, Steering Group members and the observers to the Steering Group. The updating process should be concluded in February 2022.

Working Group 2 – Business Development

Danube Business Talks 2021

The Danube Business Talks 2021 – Let's talk about the future, was organized by viadonau, on 13 of October 2021, in a digital format. The digital Danube Business Talks highlighted the potential of the Danube in terms of freight and passenger navigation, under different framework conditions and how to facilitate a cross-border exchange between companies, authorities and politicians.

Details are available at:

<https://www.viadonau.org/en/newsroom/news/detail/danube-business-talks-2021-lets-talk-about-the-future>

Working Group 4 – River Information Services

On 18th of November 2021 the Focus workshop: *Notices to Skippers Standard 4.0*, was held in a digital format. The workshop focussed on the implementation of NtS in the Danube Region which

are essential for the safety and efficiency of navigation.

During the workshop, representatives of national authorities, the Danube Commission and the IWT industry (freight and passengers) discussed the efficiency of the procedures and means of improvements.

Follow-up events and bilateral discussions on the topic will take place in the course of 2022.

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 17 of January 2022 as well as delegated acts, is a matter of concern for all Danube riparian states. National transposition measures communicated by the Member States concerning the implementation of the Directive are available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/NIM/?uri=CELEX:32017L2397>

PA1a is currently drafting the *Policy Recommendation on Professional Qualifications* which aims to present the status, the progresses and the challenges to facilitate labour availability and mobility.

PA1a joined the Advisory Board of the [COMPETING Project](#), an Erasmus+ Project. The teaching materials which will contain interactive and attractive elements like quizzes, video footage and visuals, will be available in spring 2022. In addition to the teaching materials, a European Training Record Book (ETRB) is delivered and is already available via the website of EDINNA at <https://www.edinna.eu/competing/european-training-record-book-etrb/>.

In the future, PA1a can provide a platform for cooperation, remind the member states of their obligations and push for the actual implementation of the Directive's provisions after 2022.

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. Romania and Moldova are currently conducting their national procedures for issuing the legislation for implementing the DAVID Forms at national level.

The last meeting of the Joint PA1a/PA11 Working Group on Administrative Procedures was held on 14 of December. In particular, the digitalization of the DAVID forms and other measures to be implemented in the future were discussed.



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.

Upcoming events

PLATINA 3 - 3rd Stage Event

The Brussels sessions to be held on the 10th and 11th of February 2022 and address the following themes:

- Inland waterway transport preparing to adapt to a changing climate
- Modal shift and decarbonization
- Towards an EU emission label and energy index for vessels
- The regulatory pathway towards a zero-emission fleet

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.

