

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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

NEWSLETTER

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 **Federal Ministry**
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Climate Action, Environment,
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viadonau



Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

News, facts and events

11th EUSDR Annual Forum in Košice, Slovakia

The 11th EUSDR Annual Forum with this year's focus "Sustainable and Secure Danube Region"-RECOVERY.DEVELOPMENT.UNITY was jointly organized by the Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency, the former Slovak EUSDR Presidency, the European Commission and the Danube Strategy Point, with the financial support of the Danube Transnational Programme. The Forum took place on 19-20 October 2022, in Košice, Slovakia and online (hybrid format), preceded by the 9th Danube Participation Day, organized by PA10 (more information can be found [here](#)).

Details of the Annual Forum are available at:

<https://danube-region.eu/11th-annual-forum-of-the-eu-strategy-for-the-danube-region/>

Danube Strategy Flagships

With introduction of the Danube Strategy Flagships, a new communication tool was created to support the key stakeholders to present and disseminate EUSDR strategic projects/processes in an easier and more targeted way and hence showing the manifold modes of successful implementation of the EUSDR. The List of all Danube Strategy Flagships 2022 was published on the [EUSDR Website](#).



PA1a's efforts in recent years to make the waterway more sustainable, consistent and reliable were acknowledged. Both the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries (FRMMP) and the joint Working Group with PA11 on "Administrative Processes" are represented.

2022 CEF Transport Call

Open until 18 January 2023

The 2022 CEF Transport call for proposals makes EUR 5.12 billion available for projects targeting new upgraded and improved European transport infrastructure.

Projects funded within this call will help to increase the sustainability of the transport network, putting the EU on track to meet the European Green Deal objective of cutting transport emissions by 90% by 2050.

The call aims to support infrastructure projects on TEN-T networks, for example in the areas inland waterways, inland ports, multimodal logistics platforms, safe and secure mobility, infrastructure resilience.

More information can be found here:

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/2022-cef-transport-call_en

All project promoters are highly encouraged to submit innovative projects.

Working Group 1 – Waterway and Port Infrastructure & Management

The *Danube Ports Day 2022* on 11 October 2022 provided insights on policy, logistics and digitalization developments.

Originally initiated by the DAPHNE project, the 2022 edition of the Danube Ports Day event was organized in the frame of the [DIONYSUS](#) project by Pro Danube Management (PDM) and the Maritime Ports Administration Constanta (MPAC) with the support of the Danube Ports Network (DPN). Experts from the Danube Region participated to discuss hot topics related to: the Ukrainian goods exported from Danube ports and newly established logistics chains, transport of goods on the Lower Danube - reflecting on infrastructure conditions, opportunities, and challenges, digitalization trends and intermodal logistics in the Danube Region.

Details on the event can be found here:

<https://www.danubeports.eu/info-room/>

Danube Ports Handbook

The second edition of the Danube Ports Handbook was published in October 2022. It was elaborated within the [DIONYSUS](#) project and based on the results of two surveys that were carried out among the ports of the Danube Region. Information on port traffic in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic was collected. The average number of port calls highly correlates with the number of handled products and traffic passenger transport generated, thus useful insights into the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on Danube navigation were gained. The survey furthermore touched upon topics linked to procedural restrictions that may have impaired a smooth transport flow.

The Danube Ports Handbook is publicly available for download under this link:

<https://www.danubeports.eu/port-knowledge-center/2-danube-ports-network/89-publications>

Working Group 2 – Business Development

Danube Business Talks 2022 - "Green Deal – Green Danube"

On 12 and 13 October, the *Danube Business Talks* conference with title "*Green Deal – Green Danube*", organized by viadonau took place in Linz, Austria and online. About 150 participants of different countries of the Danube region participated in this year's event. The main topics of discussion were more relevant than ever: climate protection and how companies, political decision-makers and infrastructure operators can help to establish a more environmentally friendly transport network along the Danube.

Details are available at:

<https://www.danubebusinesstalks.org/>

Working Group 3 – Fleet modernization

The *5th PLATINA3 Stage Event* took place on 19-20 October 2022 in Budapest and online (hybrid). IWT policy makers, professionals from demand and supply side, interested NGOs, research and academic experts as well as other IWT sector representatives were discussing important topics, such as necessary competencies needed for the use of zero- or low emission propulsion systems, automation of inland navigation vessels, alternative energy infrastructure as well as a consolidated R&D roadmap and implementation plan for IWT.

Information on this event can be found here:

<https://platina3.eu/event/budapest-2022/>

The project "*H2 meets H2O*" organized a second stakeholder workshop in Linz in the aftermath of the Danube Business Talks event.

The aim of the project is to assess the feasibility and applicability of hydrogen supply along the Danube as logistics backbone from a technical, legal and socio-economic point of view. Based on a multimodal supply concept, from the production of

hydrogen up to the end-users, the logistical basis for a subsequent R&D project with innovative pilot applications for inland waterway vessels, railways and trucks shall be created.

The project will elaborate a roadmap for the implementation of hydrogen infrastructure, along with hydrogen-based transport and propulsion technologies in shipping, developed with the active involvement of various stakeholders in the frame of workshops.

Working Group 4 – River Information Services

EuRIS Portal officially launched

The EuRIS (European River Information Services) platform is the result of a cooperation between 13 European countries. The international cooperation was effectuated within the [RIS COMEX](#) project that ran from 2016-2022. It was a CEF co-financed multi-Beneficiary project aiming at the definition, specification, implementation and sustainable operation of Corridor RIS Services.

EuRIS presents all waterway and traffic related information of 13 European countries on handy maps or in tables. Furthermore, individual information of vessels, voyages and cargo can be uploaded and connected with different functions or messages.

Details are available at:

<https://www.eurisportal.eu/>

Working Group 6 Administrative Processes

On 22nd November, PA1a will be guest to the PA11 Steering Group Meeting. PA1a will report on the status of activities in WG 6, especially on the Transnational Electronic Time Management Tool (TERM).

Upcoming events

- ❖ **PA1a Steering Group Meeting on 05 December 2022** (upon invitation only)

- ❖ **PA1a Working Group 4 - River Information Services: Focus Workshop on Notices to Skippers** on 06 December 2022 (online)

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.

