

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

Newsletter September 2023

Dear colleagues and friends of the EU Danube Region Strategy,
Dear Madam or Sir,

The PA1a Technical Secretariat hopes you had a pleasant and successful summer season and would like to update you on the latest developments within PA1a, as well as executed and upcoming events.

News, facts and events

PA1a field visit in Romania

The Austrian and Romanian teams had the opportunity to meet in person in Romania for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity was used for a visit to the Romanian Waterways Administration. Together with the Bulgarian counterpart, current and planned fairway management measures on the Danube were discussed. A fruitful exchange on the fairway management happened during the field visit to Corabia - where dredging activities have been conducted with the newly purchased Romanian dredging equipment. The importance of the Bulgarian–Romanian common sector of the Danube for both cargo and for passenger shipping was underlined. The administrative capacity of the river administrations was discussed and close cooperation with environmental experts and resulting added value was emphasized.



2022 CEF Transport Call - Further projects for the Danube

FAIRway Danube II has been approved. The project is aiming to reducing infrastructure quality gaps and improving efficiency: by implementation of regular transnational monitoring of fairway conditions, procurement of sensors for measuring water levels, fairway depths and bridge clearance heights, upgrading the national waterway management systems and the transnational waterway monitoring system (WAMOS 2.0), extending the lead time of level forecasting, testing flexible infrastructure elements in Austria, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria. This unique approach with flexible elements will provide a non-invasive, nature-based solution for low water periods, as it can be used to flexibly influence fairway depth.

Another CEF 2 funded action, the project **COMEX 2**, has been approved. The project envisages the development, the implementation as well as the ensuring of the functionality and sustainability of the cross-border River Information Services (RIS). These RIS-based Corridor services shall result in better planning of inland waterway transport, reducing waiting times and accelerating traveling, increasing the efficiency of inland waterway transport, optimizing the use of the infrastructure and reducing the administrative barriers. The project will bring a geographical extension (Ukraine, Switzerland, Poland) of EURIS. Furthermore, functionality, data quantity and quality will be improved.

PA1a Steering Group Meeting

The 23rd PA1a Steering Group Meeting is planned to take place on Monday, 09 October in Bucharest (Romania). Main topics of discussion will be the Danube Ministerial Conclusions 2024, TEN-T Revision, Update of the Joint Statement Process by DC, ICPDR and ISRBC, the future sustainable

set-up of the waterway administrations and greening the Danube fleet.

This meeting is organised back-to-back with a FAIRway Danube II Activity Coordination meeting, the Steering Group members will have the opportunity to participate in the field trip on board of the marking vessels of EAEMDR (Bulgaria) and AFDJ (Romania) on the following day (Tuesday, 10 October 2023) and to learn more about the current planning of the waterway authorities regarding the use of flexible infrastructure elements along the Danube.

News from the Working Groups

Implementation of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan

FAIRway Works! continues until July 2024 by upgrading of the Serbian Iron Gate 2 navigational lock (Djerdap II), upgrading of mooring places along the Austrian Danube in Linz, Wildungsmauer and Vienna and procurement of a multifunctional marking vessel, a surveying vessel and AIS AtoNs in Serbia and procurement of multifunctional marking equipment in Austria.

Also, for further implementation of the Danube River Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan, Romanian and Bulgarian waterway administrations are preparing a project for the improvement of signalization on the Romanian – Bulgarian common sector. An application for financing will be submitted on the Interreg VI-A Romania - Bulgaria 2021-2027 programme. Furthermore, above mentioned project FAIRway Danube II will be a major element in the implementation.

Trans-national electronic registration tool (TERM)

The *Trans-national electronic registration tool* (TERM) will enable waterway users to schedule time slots for border controls in a harmonised manner. This will lead to improved plannability and efficiency of border control times for both, the shipping sector and border control authorities alike in all countries at and outside Schengen external borders. The specifications and development activities for the tool will start within the framework of the COMEX 2 project. After the first internal activities, a next technical

workshop for the TERM focus group will be planned.

Practical Manual of border controls - 4th Edition

The Practical manual of border controls – 4th edition was finalized in March 2023. The most important change was the joining of Croatia to the Schengen area with the beginning of 2023. The practical manual can be [downloaded](#) here.

Planned Events

Date	Title	Venue	Organized by
09 - 11 Oct. 2023	SG Meeting & Field trip (jointly with FAIRway Danube 2)	Bucharest (RO); Ruse (BG)	PA1a
24 & 25 Oct. 2023	12th EUSDR Annual Forum	Brdo pri Kranju (SI)	DSP
09 Nov. 2023	Meeting of Working Group 6	Online	PA1a/PA11
27 Nov. 2023	International Danube Tourism Conference	Linz (AT)	
02-05 April 2024	Connecting Europe Days	Brussels (BE)	CINEA
15 May 2024	Danube Business Talks	Vienna (AT)	viadonau

Technical Secretariat for Priority Area 1a

AUSTRIA:

via donau - Österreichische Wasserstraßen-Gesellschaft mbH

Gert-Jan Muilerman

phone: +43 50 4321 1604 | gert-jan.muilerman@via-donau.org

Viktoria Weissenburger

phone: +43 50 4321 1608 | viktoria.weissenburger@viadonau.org

Iris Marstaller

phone +43 50 4321 1635 | iris.marstaller@viadonau.org

ROMANIA:

Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communications

Monica Patrichi

phone: +40 374 808 420 | monica.patrichi@mt.ro



Co-funded by
the European Union

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

viadonau



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,
INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

[Unsubscribe](#)