

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

Newsletter December 2024

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Danube Region Strategy,
Dear Madam or Sir,

Priority Area 1a can look back on a productive year 2024!

We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the excellent cooperation and your strong involvement in our activities during this past year. We look forward to continuing our joint work and seeing you again in 2025!

We wish you all Merry Christmas, a restful holiday period and all the best for the New Year!

With kind regards and stay safe,

Your PA1a team

News, facts and events

25th PA1a Steering Group Meeting

The 25th Steering Group meeting was held online on 13th December 2024. Representatives from the riparian countries, as well as the European Commission, professional associations and the Danube Youth Council were participating. PA1a Steering Group members and observers exchanged views on waterway and port infrastructure & management, fleet modernization and the administrative processes. A work programme of PA1a for the upcoming years based on the topics included in the EUSDR Action Plan (SWD(2020)59 from 06.04.2020) was presented. One of the focus topics in 2024 will be the development of a Danube-specific technology pathway and roadmap towards zero-emission Danube navigation (joint activity with Danube Commission), a follow up workshop is already planned for 12th May 2024 in Budapest.

The next Steering Group meeting is planned for 29th April 2024 (online).

Launch of the Joint Statement 2.0 Process

The Sava Commission, Danube Commission, and ICPDR launched the Joint Statement 2.0 process to update sustainable navigation and environmental protection in the Danube Basin. This initiative addresses climate change, sustainable transport, and innovative river management. It aims to balance economic growth with ecological integrity, enhance resilience to floods and droughts, and integrate European Green Deal principles. Stakeholders will collaboratively shape future strategies for the Danube and Sava Rivers. A first stakeholder workshop was held in September, a second stakeholder workshop is planned for 30st January 2025 in Budapest

For more details, visit [ICPDR's website](#)

CEF Transport call for proposals is open!

CEF Call for proposal is open for the inland waterways and ports – studies, works or mixed - on the TEN-T core network. The deadline for the submission of projects is 21st January 2025, 17:00:00 Brussels time.

Detailed information are available [here](#).

Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) call

CEF Transport Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) call for proposal is open to support the deployment of alternative fuels supply infrastructure, contributing to decarbonising transport along the TEN-T network. This call for proposals covers the roll-out of alternative fuels infrastructure for road, maritime, inland waterway and air transport.

Projects can be submitted until 11th June 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time or 17.12.2025 17:00:00 Brussels time. Detailed information are available [here](#). An eligibility matrix is available [here](#).

News from the Working Groups

Implementation of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan

On 26th November 2024, the 2nd Advisory Committee Meeting of the project FAIRway Danube II was held in Vienna. At the same time, this was also the final event of the two projects FAIRway works! and Preparing FAIRway 2. The meeting provided a status update on the FAIRway Danube projects (all CEF co-funded), aimed at improving the Danube River as a multimodal transport route. The partners highlighted ongoing infrastructure upgrades, such as modernizing the Iron Gate II locks in Serbia and improving Austrian mooring sites. Future plans include enhancing navigation with advanced technology like updated buoys and gauging stations, alongside a transnational monitoring system. The EUR 70 million FAIRway Danube II project will further support sustainable and efficient river transport. For more details, visit <https://www.viadonau.org/en/newsroom/news/detail/status-update-on-the-danube-international-project-partners-and-stakeholders-in-vienna>



Workshop on "Roadmap and actions towards zero-emission"

Danube fleet”

PA1a and the Danube Commission jointly organized a workshop on “Roadmap and actions towards zero-emission Danube fleet” on 08th October 2024 in Budapest. The workshop brought together around 90 representatives of shipping companies, alternative fuel suppliers, ministries of transport and waterway administrations, European Commission and international organisations.

During the workshop, the participants evaluated medium- and long-term technologies to reduce ship emissions. Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) was identified as the most promising biofuel for navigation for CO₂ and pollution reduction by 2030. While pilot projects test alternatives like hydrogen, methanol, and batteries, biofuels emerged as the leading short-term solution. Economic barriers were highlighted as a big hurdle, necessitating cost-reduction strategies, financial incentives, and regulatory measures.

PA 1a will track advancements in fleet modernization, adapting findings to the Danube context and will incorporate them into a roadmap towards zero-emission Danube fleet. A follow-up workshop is scheduled for 12th May 2025 in Budapest, giving room for discussion of the proposed roadmap.



Transport and Logistics GHG Emissions in Context	
Transport emissions	all non-road GHG emissions
Logistics emissions	all transport GHG emissions

Waterpolice Workshop

On 2nd October 2024, the joint PA1a/PA11 Working Group on Administrative Processes held a workshop for Danube water police in Budapest, fostering exchange on control procedures and national competences. The event aimed to clarify tasks and

responsibilities of control authorities and enhance cross-border cooperation. Next steps include developing a comprehensive map of transnational and national roles, highlighting coordination needs, and ensuring improved accountability and harmonization of administrative processes.

Many thanks to all participants for their cooperation and valuable contributions!

PA1a/PA11 Working Group on Administrative Processes

The meeting of the joint Working Group of Priority Area 1a and Priority Area 11, on administrative and digital processes, was organized on 13th November 2024 online. The meeting was attended by 26 experts from various public institutions, e.g. border police, RIS providers, ministries of transport and ministries of interior. The discussions focused on the experiences with the use of CEERIS (Central & Eastern European Reporting Information System) and the (digitalised) DAVID forms. Within the framework of the COMEX2 project, the systems EURIS/CEERIS will be further developed and the planned TERM tool - Electronic Registration & Time Management Tool for border controls will be implemented.

The "Single Point of Contact for Problem Management on Danube" is a service offered by the Danube Commission (DC) to the IWT sector to report administrative barriers in Danube navigation. The Danube Commission implemented a form for contacting on their [webpage](#) .

Events

Date	Title	Venue	Organized by
30 January 2025	2nd Stakeholder Workshop Joint Statement 2.0	Budapest (HU)	Danube Commission
29 April 2025	26th Steering Group Meeting PA1a	online	PA1a
12 May 2025	2nd Workshop "Roadmap and actions towards zero-emission Danube fleet"	Budapest (HU)	PA1a, Danube Commission

5-6 November 2025	EUSDR Annual Forum	Sarajevo (BiH)	EUSDR
5 November 2024	3rd Advisory Committee Meeting of FAIRway Danube II	Vienna (AT)	viadonau

Links to the Navigation condition

Traffic, fairway and navigation conditions, can be found on the Danube FIS Portal

Danube FIS Portal

or EuRIS Portal at the page:

EuRIS

or the web pages of the Danube river administrations:

- Germany <https://www.elwis.de/DE/dynamisch/IENC/>
- Austria <https://www.doris.bmk.gv.at/inland-encs/downloads/inland-encs-inland-ecdis-standard-24>
- Czech Republic https://geoportal.plavebniurad.cz/web/Geoportal/Index_en
- Slovakia <https://www.svp.sk/svp/default.asp>
- Hungary <https://www.ovf.hu/vizgazdalkodas-vizszolgaltatas/ienc-terkep>; <https://pannonris.hu/en/terkepek>
- Croatia <https://www.vodnputovi.hr/en/ris/enc-charts/>
- Serbia <http://www.plovput.gov.rs/electronic-navigational-charts>
- Bulgaria <https://appd-bg.org/mapris-en>
- Romania <https://afdj.ro/en/content/inland-enc>; <https://www.roris.ro/portal/ro.aspx>
- Ukraine https://charts.gov.ua/en_enc_cell.html

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