

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

Newsletter July 2025

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Danube Region Strategy,
To all our subscribers,

We are already halfway through 2025, and we would like to share some recent highlights with you.

In the past months, we have continued the process on actions towards a zero-emission Danube fleet and the update of the Joint Statement - among many other activities.

Looking ahead, the second half of 2025 will bring a number of events in inland waterways. We are looking forward to continuing our close collaboration.

Wishing you a pleasant summer.

Kind regards,
Your PA1a team

News, facts and events

Danube Region Programme - 3rd call pre-announcement

The Danube Region Programme is announcing their third call for proposals. The call will be thematically targeted, open in mid-September and close on 15 December 2025. More information, such as thematic focusses and webinars can be found on their website.

Find out more on the 3rd DRP
Call

Update of the Joint Statement

The Joint Statement, originally adopted in 2007, outlines principles and recommendations to ensure that navigation development is pursued in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable manner. The update process of the Joint Statement was initiated by the Sava Commission, Danube Commission, and International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR). The goal of the update is to continue the implementation of an integrated approach to river corridor management and to foster more resilient Danube and Sava river basins, capable of adapting to climate change impacts like floods, droughts, and low water levels.

Following the first stakeholder workshop on the update of the Joint Statement in September 2024, a second stakeholder workshop took place in January 2025. PA1a has provided feedback alongside the shipping sector. The feedback is currently being incorporated into the final version of the Joint Statement 2.0, which is planned to be presented in autumn.

We will keep you informed on the process towards a Joint Statement 2.0.

Read more about the Joint
Statement

Annual Construction and Navigation Meeting



To support the implementation of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Masterplan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries, which remains a cornerstone of coordinated Danube navigation development, we are pleased to share the Updated Reports on Good Navigation Status (GNS)/National Action Plans 2025.

This annual report illustrates the status of selected GNS components in the Danube riparian countries. The report provides a consistent, transnational overview of the Danube waterway's status and development efforts.

The first half of the year 2024 was marked by favourable conditions from a hydrological perspective. The second half of the year was characterised by strong fluctuations in the water level. The second of two flood events in September posed particular challenges for the waterway authorities on the Upper and Middle Danube. On the other hand, the Lower Danube benefitted from the receding flood wave, which ended the ongoing low water period.

Reports on Good Navigation Status

News from the Working Groups

Workshop on the fairway conditions in 2024 and Expert Meeting on Hydrotechnical Matters





40 participants from Danube waterway administrations and representatives of the navigation sector gathered in Budapest for the Expert Meeting on Hydrotechnical issues ©Danube Commission

The Danube Commission, together with EUSDR Priority Area 1a, organized a joint workshop titled "Review of Fairway Conditions on the Danube in 2024" on 4th March 2025 in Budapest. The event was held back-to-back with the annual expert meeting on hydrotechnical matters.

At the workshop on fairway conditions participants discussed national maintenance activities, assessed fairway conditions, and reviewed the progress of the CEF co-funded "FAIRway Danube II" and "FAST DANUBE 2" projects. Furthermore, the workshop provided a platform for valuable input from shipping companies. Mr. Herbert Pribitzer (European Commission, DG MOVE) emphasized the importance of enhancing the resilience of inland waterways in response to climate change, which is increasingly affecting the Danube's hydrological conditions.

Read more on the Joint Workshop

On the next day, the annual expert meeting on hydrotechnical issues, organised by the Danube Commission, took place. The core of the meeting was the presentation and discussion of the planned activities of the participating countries. Additionally, information on major works and information services was shared.

Workshop on Actions towards zero-emission Danube Fleet

Following the initial workshop in October 2024, PA1a and the Danube Commission jointly held a follow-up event on 12th March 2025 in Budapest, gathering stakeholders from the inland waterway transport sector.

Building on fleet data, insights from the initial workshop and discussions on possible

transition pathways and implementation barriers, PA1a and the Danube Commission presented a set of concrete actions aimed at achieving a zero-emission Danube fleet. The workshop focused on proposed short- and mid-term policy strategies, with participants openly discussing their feasibility and impact.

PA1a and the Danube Commission will continue refining actions to support the fleet's green transition, using the workshop outcomes to guide next steps.

Read more on the Workshop on Fleet Modernisation

Events

The upcoming events in 2025 for PA1a Steering Group Members and inland navigation stakeholders are:

Date	Title	Venue	Organized by
2-5 September 2025	3 rd International Conference on Sustainability in Hydropower	Vienna, Austria	BOKU University
24-24 September 2025	Macro-regional & Sea Basin Strategies Days 2025	Brussels, Belgium	DG REGIO and DG MARE
5-6 November 2025	EUSDR Annual Forum	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUSDR
5 November 2025	PA1a Steering Group Meeting	Vienna, Austria	PA1a
4-5 November 2025	3 rd Advisory Committee of FAIRway Danube II	Vienna, Austria	viadonau
4 November 2025	PLATINA4Action Stage Event	Budapest, Hungary	PLATINA4Action

Links to the Navigation condition

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

the EuRIS portal

Danube FIS Portal

EuRIS Portal

or the web pages of the Danube river administrations:

- Germany <https://www.elwis.de/DE/dynamisch/IENC/>
 - Austria <https://www.doris.bmimi.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>
 - Hungary <https://www.ovf.hu/vizgazdalkodas-vizszolgaltatas/ienc-terkep>; <https://pannonris.hu/en/terkepek>
 - Croatia <https://www.vodniputovi.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://roris.rna.ro/portal/en>
 - Ukraine https://charts.gov.ua/en_enc_cell.html
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