

4th Working Groups meeting Priority Area 1a of the EUSDR

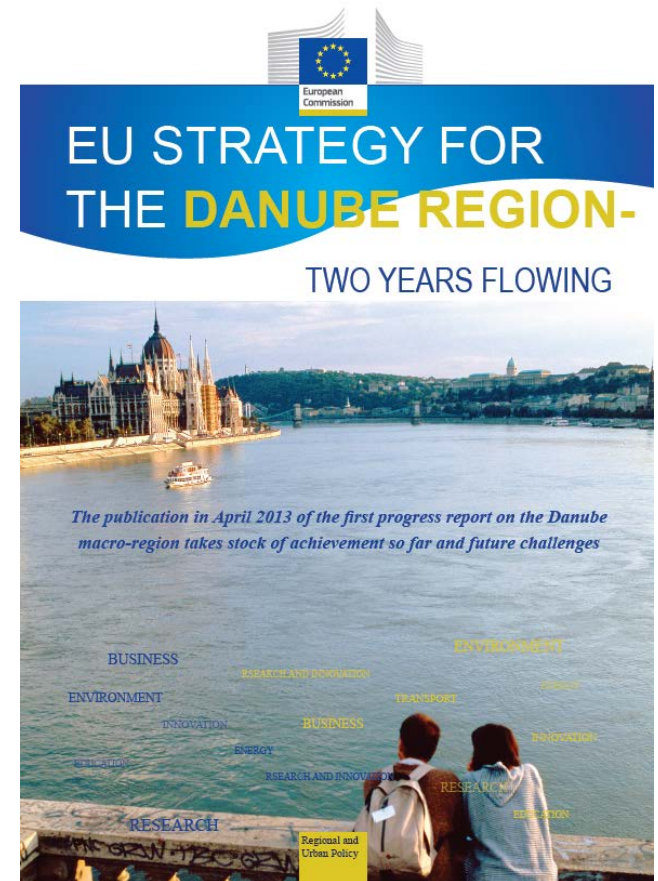
Linz, 16 + 17 April 2013

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Status of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region

1st Progress Report of the European Commission

- ✓ Published in April 2013
- ✓ Significant achievements are evident after 18 months of implementation: The EUSDR ...
 - promotes concrete transnational **projects** with impacts on the Region
 - supports the **coordination** of different national and EU **policies and funds**, and paves the way for more coherence and better results, with more impact for 2014-2020
 - develops a wide-ranging **cooperation platform**, addressing challenges that have been identified as needing joint attention
 - highlights the **political importance** of the region, through strategic support at ministerial level



1st Annual Forum of the EUSDR

- ✓ **Regensburg, 27 + 28 November 2012**
- ✓ Aim: Overview on **implementation status** of the Strategy for the general public, creating broad visibility of progress made
- ✓ More than **600 high-level participants** from the region, including ministers, showing the commitment of the countries to the Strategy
- ✓ Opening speech by EU Commissioner **Johannes Hahn** highlighting the Strategy as a key to Cohesion Policy as engine of growth
- ✓ Speech by German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** describing the EUSDR as a new way to overcome 20th century division and conflicts in the region and as an important impulse for overall socio-economic development



Next steps concerning the EUSDR & PA 1a

- ✓ 29 + 30 April 2013: Meeting of **Priority Area Coordinators** in Sofia (Bulgaria) for horizontal coordination of the Strategy
- ✓ June 2013: Publication of **evaluation** of EU macro-regional strategies by the European Commission
- ✓ June 2013: **Second progress report** to be finalised by PACs 1a; including progress report on implementation of **Luxembourg Declaration** on effective waterway infrastructure maintenance
- ✓ Fall 2013:
 - 5th meeting of the **Working Groups** of PA 1a
 - 6th meeting of the **Steering Group** of PA 1a
- ✓ 28 + 29 October 2013:
 - 2nd Annual Forum** of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region in Bucharest (Romania)

Implementation status & next steps for thematic action fields

Waterway Infrastructure – status



- ✓ Implementation of representative **waterway infrastructure projects** on the Danube:
 - DE: Study on variants finished end of 2012
 - AT: Start of pilot project east of Vienna
 - RS: Progress in planning for six priority locations
 - RO: Construction works on RO Danube section
- ✓ Implementation of projects on the **Sava river**
→ Presentation by the Sava Commission
- ✓ Support for BG/RO projects by **Interministerial Committee** set up in 2012 between the two countries
→ Presentation by the RO Ministry of Transport

Waterway Infrastructure – next steps



- ✓ Revision of Guidelines for the EU's **Trans-European Transport Network** and the Connecting Europe Facility for 2014 to 2020 → **Presentation by the EC's DG MOVE**
 - Danube as Corridor 10 is part of the "core network" (now also includes the Danube-Black Sea Canal)
 - TEN-T core network shall be established by 2030
- ✓ Implementation of waterway infrastructure **projects**
- ✓ Facilitation for BG/RO infrastructure projects via **Interministerial Committee**

Waterway Management – status



- ✓ **Declaration** on effective waterway infrastructure maintenance on the Danube and its navigable tributaries signed in June 2012 during the Danube Ministers Meeting
- ✓ Monitoring of **implementation** in the framework of the EUSDR's PA 1a → **Presentation by EUSDR PAC 1a Technical Secretariat**
- ✓ Representative project: **NEWADA duo** – Network of Danube Waterway Administrations – data and user orientation (10/2012 – 09/2014); co-funded in the EU's SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme

Waterway Management – next steps



- ✓ Updated answers to **questionnaire** received in March/April 2013 from all Danube riparian states except DE, including HU and UA (which have not signed the Declaration)
- ✓ Discussion of **short-term measures** planned for 2013 in 5th meeting of PA 1a Steering Group (scheduled for 17/18 April 2013)
- ✓ **Report to the European Commission** by PACs 1a on the implementation of the Declaration by the Danube countries due in June 2013
- ✓ Next update round for questionnaire in fall 2013

Ports & sustainable freight transport

Ports and Sustainability



"Develop multi-modal ports and sustainable freight transport"

- ✓ Development of **benchmarks** and **performance indicators** for Danube ports and transshipment sites; practical applicability in projects → **Presentation by via donau and Port Authority Vukovar**
- ✓ Representative project: **INWAPO** – Upgrading of Inland Waterway and Sea Ports (10/2011 – 09/2014); co-funded in the EU's CE Transnational Cooperation Programme



Fleet Modernisation



- ✓ Several studies for the use of **alternative fuels** on the Danube, e.g. LNG (liquefied natural gas), feasibility of **LNG vessels** on the Danube
→ Presentation by Damen Shipyards Group
- ✓ Flagship project: **Innovative Danube Vessel** (07/2012 – 12/2013); study commissioned by via donau on behalf of the EC's DG REGIO
→ Presentation by consortium leader on status and interim results

River Information Services – status



✓ State of play of international data exchange:

	Service Agreement for Hull Data Exchange	Service Agreement for Traffic Management	Contract among RIS providers
Data	Hull data	VTT in border areas, ERI	ERI, VTT
Users	Certification and RIS authorities	RIS authorities	Logistic users
Involved countries	in force for 10 countries (PL, CZ, AT, SK, RO, BG, NL, BE, FR, LU)	Signed by two countries (AT, SK) in the Danube region	in force for 7 countries (AT, SK, HU, HR, RS, RO, BG)

River Information Services – status



- ✓ Representative projects:
 - **IRIS Europe 3** (7 partner countries from the Danube region)
 - 1st Coordination meeting held on 3rd of April 2013 in Vienna
 - Provisions on international data exchange (technical and legal) are progressing
 - **RoRIS** – Implementation of RIS in Romania (successfully finalised beginning of 2013)
 - **RIS Implementation in Serbia** (successfully finalised in March 2013)

River Information Services – next steps



- ✓ Start of **pilot operation** of international data exchange between AT, SK, HU and RO from June 2013
- ✓ Involve **logistical users** into the RIS data exchange
- ✓ Continue **signature process** for legal agreements for international data exchange (*mid-term solutions*)
- ✓ Improve quality of interoperability between **national RIS systems**
- ✓ Appeal to the European Commission and the national governments to support in establishing a sustainable and holistic **legal basis** for international RIS data exchange → PA 1a Steering Group

Education and Jobs – qualifications

Education and Jobs



"Invest in education
and jobs"

- ✓ On-going public consultation on the recognition and modernisation of **professional qualifications** in inland navigation (revision of EU Directive 96/50/EC on boatmasters' certificates)
- ✓ Team of project HINT will provide information and bring in Danube region opinions
- ✓ Representative project: **HINT** – Harmonized Inland Navigation Transport through Education and Information Technology (12/2012 – 12/2014); co-funded in the EU's SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme



Education and Jobs – knowledge



- ✓ Danube logistics knowledge: 3rd revised and updated edition of **Manual on Danube Navigation** published by via donau in January 2013
- ✓ Available in German and English; includes Austria-specific content in "info boxes"
- ✓ Danube "country editions" are foreseen in national languages in cooperation with regional partners; first ideas for RO and HU editions with alternative country-specific content (e.g. on law, administration)



Administrative Processes – status



- ✓ New initiative within PA 1a
- ✓ Administrative processes and paperwork are a **significant competitive disadvantage** for IWT on the Danube and its tributaries
- ✓ Background: not all Danube riparian states are in the EU; not all EU states are in the Schengen area, i.e. necessary **border checks** for passengers & crews; required **customs clearance** for imports & exports
- ✓ **Aim:** shorten total travel time and time spent for paperwork, i.e. enhanced processes & procedures and simplification & standardisation of reports where possible







Administrative Processes – next steps



- ✓ Evaluation of synergies with on-going activities in **PA 11 of the EUSDR** on security (meeting with PA 11 in June 2013)
- ✓ Detailed **analysis** of the most time-consuming activities (with sector and authorities)
- ✓ **Identification** of potentials for synergies & enhancement (with sector and authorities)
- ✓ **Discussion** of potentials with the authorities
- ✓ **Implementation** of changes for enhancement

Information on PA 1a projects and provision of online information

EUSDR PA 1a projects: Status quo

Waterway Infrastructure	Waterway Management	Ports and Sustainability	Danube Fleet	River Information Services	Education and Jobs	IWT Transport Policies
						
"Invest in waterway infrastructure"	"Improve comprehensive waterway management"	"Develop multi-modal ports and sustainable freight transport"	"Modernise the Danube fleet"	"Implement harmonised River Information Services"	"Invest in education and jobs"	"Coordinate national inland waterway transport policies"

Status:
15/04/2013

	Waterway Infrastructure	Waterway Management	Ports and Sustainable Transport	Fleet Modernisation	River Information Services	Education and Jobs	IWT Policies	TOTAL
TOTAL	34	11	26	12	7	3	5	95
Definition	5	2	6	1	0	1	0	17
Preparation	18	2	13	4	2	0	2	43
Implementation	10	2	7	5	3	1	1	27
Completion	1	5	0	2	2	1	2	8

- 43 projects are in preparation (proposal, feasibility study etc.)
- 27 projects are currently under implementation

EUSDR PA 1a projects: funding

New **Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme** as a follow-up to the SEE Transnational Cooperation Programme for the new Structural Funds period 2014 – 2020



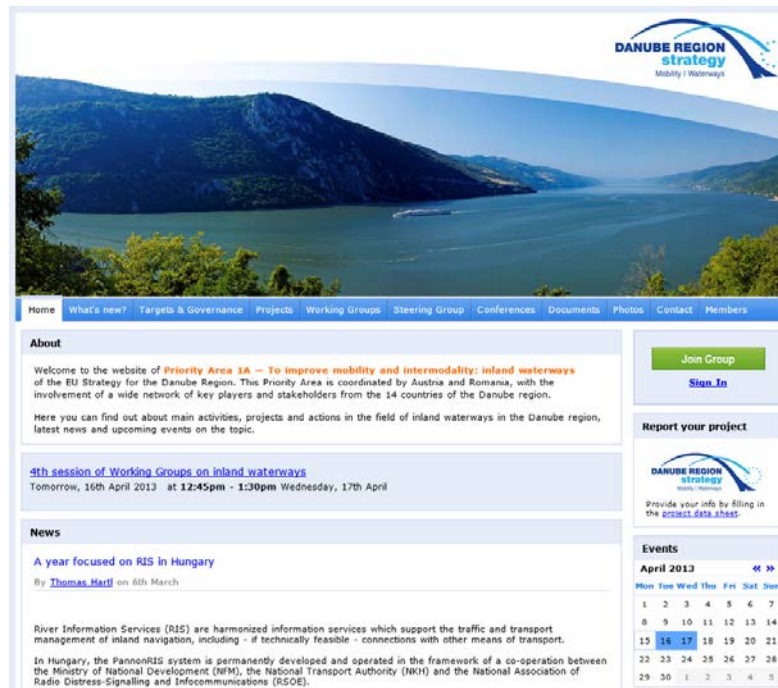
All **14** Danube countries represented in the EUSDR will be fully eligible

Transnational Cooperation Danube Programme

- ✓ Content of the programme references **strategically important projects** identified by the macro-regional strategies
- ✓ Thematic concentration on **4 to 5 priorities** (still in discussion)
- ✓ Shared management of **programme resources**: ERDF, IPA, ENPI
- ✓ Roadmap:
 - 1st programming task force meeting took place in February 2013
 - Operational programme to be approved in June 2014
 - First open calls in spring 2015, at the earliest
- ✓ To be clarified: **Role of PACs** in programming process as well as role of **Letters of Recommendation** issued by PACs

PA 1a website as information portal

- ✓ www.danube-navigation.eu as the **main entry point** for information regarding the implementation of PA 1a
- ✓ Current and continuous **information** about **ongoing activities** in PA 1a (news, events, meetings)
- ✓ **Documents** (agenda, presentations, lists of attendance, photos etc.)
- ✓ Overview on the **current status** of **projects / project ideas** related to PA 1a; provision of **data sheets** for each project



The screenshot shows the website interface for the DANUBE REGION strategy. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, What's new?, Targets & Governance, Projects, Working Groups, Steering Group, Conferences, Documents, Photos, Contact, and Members. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- About:** A welcome message for Priority Area 1A, stating it is coordinated by Austria and Romania, and provides a link to find out more about activities.
- 4th session of Working Groups on inland waterways:** A news item dated Tomorrow, 16th April 2013 at 12:45pm - 1:30pm Wednesday, 17th April.
- News:** A section titled "A year focused on RIS in Hungary" by Thomas Marfi on 6th March. Below this is a paragraph about River Information Services (RIS) and their role in supporting inland navigation.
- Events:** A calendar for April 2013, showing dates from 1 to 30.
- Report your project:** A section with a "Join Group" button and a "Sign In" link.

Update of PA 1a website

- ✓ New section created with **downloadable documents**
 - Strategic and political documents:
 - Declaration on effective waterway infrastructure maintenance on the Danube and its navigable tributaries (June 2012)
 - Memorandum of Understanding on setting up an Interministerial Committee for sustainable development of inland waterway transport between Romania and Bulgaria (October 2012)
 - Annual progress reports by PACs 1a
 - First annual progress report (June 2012)
 - ... to be expanded ...