



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



Agenda (I)

09:45 - 10:00

Revision of EUSDR targets and identification of strategic projects (Marco Onida, DG REGIO)

Proposal for revised PA1a targets (Gert-Jan Muilerman,

PA1a)

10:00 - 10:25

Statement by Director Olivier Onidi (DG MOVE)

State of play in Priority Area 1a and Work Plan 2015-2016

Waterway infrastructure & management:

- Updated National Action Plans for the implementation of the Fairway Master Plan and overview of FAIRway Danube project (Gudrun Maierbrugger, viadonau)









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



Agenda (II)

10:25 - 10:45

Fleet modernisation:

- Summary of PROMINENT project activities (Gudrun Maierbrugger, viadonau)
- Outcomes of LNG Masterplan (Manfred Seitz, PDI)
- 10:45 11:00

Administrative processes

- Presentation of Practical Manual on border crossing procedures (Katja Rosner, viadonau)
- 11:00 11:15
- Harmonisation of professional training standards for IWT
- State of play and future steps (Ghiuler Manole, CERONAV)
- 11:15 11:30
- Status report on PA1a-related projects
- Summary on PA1a related projects (Gert-Jan Muilerman, PA1a)
- Decision on requests for Letters of Recommendation













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Proposal for revision of PA1a targets

Gert-Jan Muilerman (PA1a)









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Existing targets:

- (1) Increase the <u>cargo transport</u> on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to
- (2) Solve obstacles to navigability, taking into account the specific characteristics of each section of the Danube and its navigable tributaries and establish effective waterway infrastructure management by 2015.
- (3) Develop efficient multimodal terminals at river ports along the Danube and its navigable tributaries to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.
- (4) Implement harmonised <u>River Information Services</u> (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2015.
- (5) Solve the shortage of <u>qualified personnel</u> and harmonize <u>education</u> standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures.







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Proposal for updated targets

- (1) Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010.
- (2) Solve obstacles to navigability, taking into account the specific characteristics of each section of the Danube and its navigable tributaries and establish effective waterway infrastructure management by 20152020.
- (3) Develop efficient multimodal terminals at river ports along the Danube and its navigable tributaries to connect inland waterways with rail and road transport by 2020.
- (4) Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2015 by 2020.
- (5) Solve the shortage of <u>qualified personnel</u> and harmonize <u>education</u> standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures.







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Decision:

The PA1a Steering Group agrees with the updated PA1a targets













Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan -Danube and its navigable tributaries

Danube Fairway Master Plan - Content





- **below 2.5m fairway depth (ENR)** and specified fairway widths

 - Identified by waterway administrations and Danube users



Specifies the required national measures and additional investments needed to reach recommended minimum Levels of Service



Danube Fairway Master Plan - Benefits Airway



New: Focus on rehabilitation and maintenance

Previously, activities and monitoring focused on capital interventions > untapped potential of rehabilitation and maintenance measures (cost, environmental soundness, time to action..)

Raised transparency and improved data quality

- Structured data collection by all riparian states
- Actual data on status of critical fairway sections, performed and planned actions, cost/budget
- Such an overview has not been available before



Danube Fairway Master Plan - Benefits FAIRWGY



Corridor approach

- Coordination of waterway management along the Danube in need of improvement
- Activities have emphasized corridor view and cooperation among waterway managers
- Effective tool to support working towards common objectives

Integrated approach

- View and needs of relevant stakeholders illustrated (waterway managers, users, environmental stakeholders..)
- Raise mutual awareness of objectives and requirements
- Basis for improved cooperation in planning and implementation

Danube Fairway Master Plan – Timeline



- ➤ Initiated in 04/2014 by Danube Region Strategy Priority Area 1a in cooperation with the NEWADA duo project (SEE Programme)
- ➤ Prepared in close cooperation of PA1a, the European Commission and the Danube waterway administrations
- ➤ Endorsed in 12/2014 by the majority of Danube region Transport Ministers
- ➤ Partially implemented by the FAIRway Danube project as of 2015
- Operationalised via National Action Plans (annual updates to be prepared within FAIRWay Danube and adopted by PA1a)



Activity 2: Update of national Action Plan

The FAIRway Danube project CEF study incl. pilot Germany operations > Implementation of specific parts of Ukrai National Action Plans ▶ 6 participating countries & Advisory **Board** Romania Coordinated by Austrian Transport Ministry & via donau IWW of the > Duration: 2015 - 2020 Rhine-Danube Corridor Bulgaria ➤ Budget: 23,4 Mn EUR FAIRway waterways Website: www.fairwaydanube.eu (as of 02/2016)





FAIRway Danube will...

- > Update national action plans (assess needs, plan and monitor activities and financing)
- > Set-up, implement and evaluate pilot activities for improved hydrological services
 - > Surveying of riverbed and water level monitoring
 - > Integrated data analysis and water level forecast
 - > Exploit potential of dynamic marking
- > Include procurement of equipment
- ➤ Not execute physical interventions (dredging)
- ➤ Significantly improve data quality, data coherence and coordination of actions along the Danube waterway corridor
- > Prepare innovative approaches and future measures

Activity 2: Update of national Action Plans

National Action Plans - Content



- > Tool to plan and monitor activities and improve efficiency
- > Input for budget planning
- Two updates a year (May/October)

Report 2014

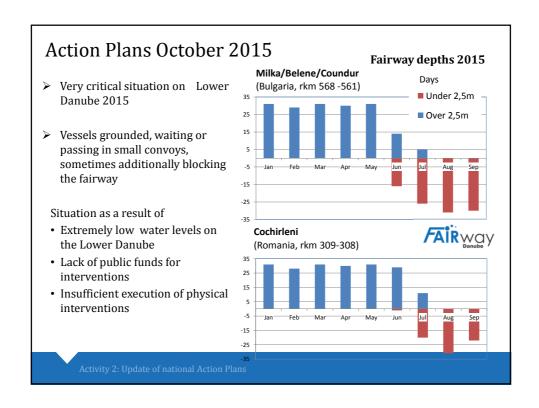
Report for 2015 on

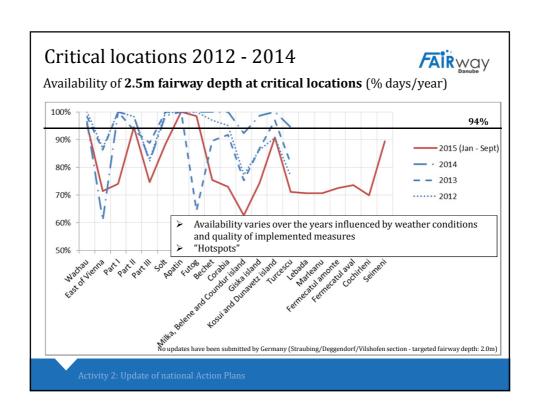
- status of critical locations
- · hydrological conditions
- rehabilitation activities
- · rehabilitation expenditures

Outlook for 2016 on

- · required rehabilitation activities
- required investments
- · rehabilitation budgets
- · analysis of financing gap

Activity 2: Update of national Action Plans





Action Plans 2015 – Operational cost and budget



Operational budgets and expenditures in Euros		2014	2015			2016		
		Expenditures	Estimated expenditures	Secured budget	Estimated financing gap	Required budget	Secured budget	Estimated financing gap
DE - Germany		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
AT - Austria		8.172.780	8.074.684	8.557.605		7.629.278	7.629.278	-
SK - Slovakia		2.942.128	2.869.700	3.510.000		3.081.000	3.081.000	-
HU - Hungary		731.170	886.705	886.705		2.003.489	4.864.480	-
HR - Croatia (Danube, Sava, Drava)		941.000	1.049.200	1.049.200		1.789.200	-	-1.789.200
RS - Serbia (Danube, Sava)		1.182.500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
BA - Bosnia and Herzegovina		98.512	98.512	98.512		127.822	127.822	-
RO - Romania	Danube	6.661.150	6.640.000	6.640.000		18.334.577	18.164.577	-170.000
	Danube-Black Sea Canal	7.871.582	9.395.960	9.395.960		18.334.577		
BG - Bulgaria		155.991	265.000	203.000	-62.000	1.576.750	-	-1.576.750
MD - Moldova		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
UA - Ukraine		181.700	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sum		28.938.513	29.279.761	30.340.982	-62.000	34.542.116	33.867.157	-3.535.950

Action Plans 2015 – Investment cost/budget Air Daniel Plans 2015 – Investment cost/budget



		2015 - 2020						
Investment budgets and expenditures in Euros		Required investments: Master Plan 2014	Secured budget (EU cofinanced actions: FAIRway, HUMARK etc.)	Remaining investment gap				
DE - Germany		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a			
AT - Austria		-	-	-	-			
SK - Slovakia		8,080,000	2,030,000	-6,050,000	-75%			
HU - Hungary		4,333,700	27,332,037					
HR - Croatia (Danube, Sava, Drava)		4,588,000	1,683,000	-2,905,000	-63%			
RS - Serbia (Danube, Sava)		5,383,000	11-	-5,383,000	-100%			
BA - Bosnia and Herzegovina		300,000	-	-300,000	-100%			
RO - Romania	Danube	41,058,000	6,551,100	-34,506,900	-84%			
	Danube-Black Sea Canal		198,884,393*	-	-			
BG - Bulgaria		21,132,000	8,947,067	-12,184,933	-58%			
MD - Moldova		-	-	-	-			
UA - Ukraine		1,500,000		-1,500,000	-100%			
Sum		86,374,700	46,543,204	-62,829,833	-73%			

^{*} the secured budget relates to the modernization of locks at the Danube-Black Sea Canal. Locks were excluded from the Master Plan. To make the required and secured budgets comparable, the amount was excluded from the sum.

National Action Plans - Status



- > Current version: October 2015 Update
- > Sent to PA1a SG in Nov 2015 no objections received
- ➤ To be formally adopted by PA1a Steering Group today:
 - political adoption
 - > link to activities beyond FAIRway Danube
- ➤ To be formally adopted by FAIRway Steering Committee this afternoon:
 - project deliverable, "project internal"
- Next update: May 2016
 - > Yearly values for critical sections
 - > Budget updates
 - Proposed adaptations based on feedback of PA1a SG Observers (DG ENV, ICPDR) and PA6 on October version

Activity 2: Update of national Action Plans

National Action Plans - Status



Adoption of National Action Plans by Steering Group unless no further adaptations made by FAIRway Steering Committee today

Activity 2: Update of national Action Plans

National Action Plans - Proposed future adaptions

Emphasize environmental dimensions

- > General introduction:
 - Include summary of relevant environmental legislation and Joint Statement Principles
- ➤ Include in country sections:
 - Summary of current ecological status based on Danube River Basin Management Plan 2015-2021
 - References to national dredging permits
 - Short illustration of environmental relevance of planned activities

Streamline document

- Reduce amount of data focus on current year
- Specify selected aspects e.g. multiannual average discharge
- Facilitate data collection electronic tool (medium term)



Activity 2: Update of national Action Plan

National Action Plans - Status



➤ Basic approval and recommendation to FAIRway Steering Committee to include described adaptations in upcoming Action Plan Update(s)

Activity 2: Update of national Action Plans

Outlook



- Next update of National Action Plans May 2016
- European Commission plans meeting of Transport Ministers in June 2016 (TEN-T Days in Rotterdam)
 - > May Update of Action Plans will provide input
 - > Start of data collection mid February
 - Action Plans sent to FAIRway Steering Group for adoption end April and to PA1a Steering Group early May
 - > Transmission of Action Plans to European Commission mid May

Activity 2: Update of national Action Plans



Thank you for your attention.

viadonau

Gudrun MAIERBRUGGER

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



PROMINENT key facts

- Deployment of innovative greening technologies in European inland waterway transport
- Expansion of IWT's competitiveness on the long term by reducing energy consumption, carbon footprint and emission of air pollutants (NOx, PM)
 - Research project co-funded by the European Union HORIZON 2020:
 - Budget: 6 million EUR
 - Duration: May 2015 April 2018
 - Coordination: Stichting STC-Group, Rotterdam
 - Broad consortium including viadonau, Pro Danube, NAVROM, Multronic, University of Craiova,...
 - Website: www.prominent-iwt.eu











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



PROMINENT activities

- Identify best available greening technologies for the European inland fleet (existing and new vessels)
- Set up, run and evaluate pilot tests
- Prepare and support large-scale roll-out of promising technologies



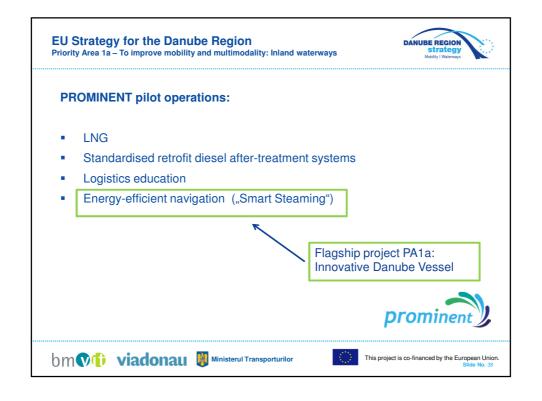












Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways



PROMINENT - Pilot on energy-efficient navigation

Objective: Reduce energy consumption of vessels by optimizing sailing behavior

- Higher water depth
- Larger fairway width
- Lower counter-current
- Lower sailing speed



Savings in fuel consumption of 3 - 25 %

Results:

- Advising tool for skippers to optimize sailing speed and track ("smart steaming")
- Information to optimize payload based on actual information on available fairway depth
- Test operations on the Rhine and Danube to be launched 2016
- Technical, financial and operational roll-out plan 2017











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



LNG Masterplan

Mr Manfred Seitz, Pro Danube International



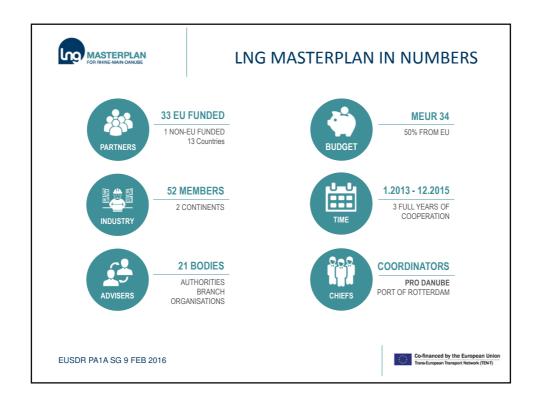


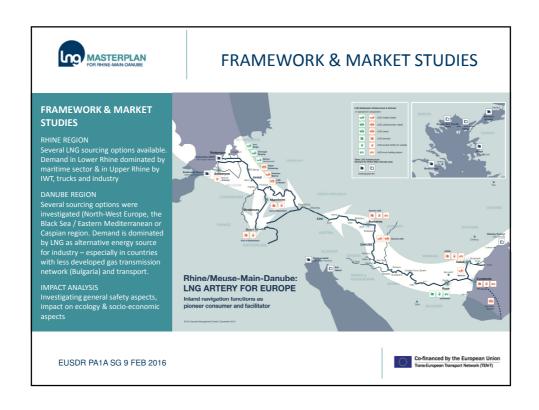








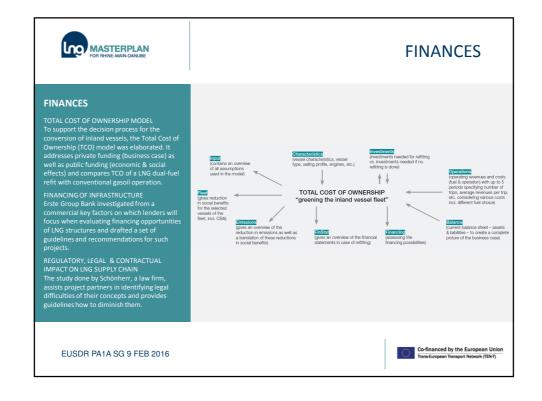






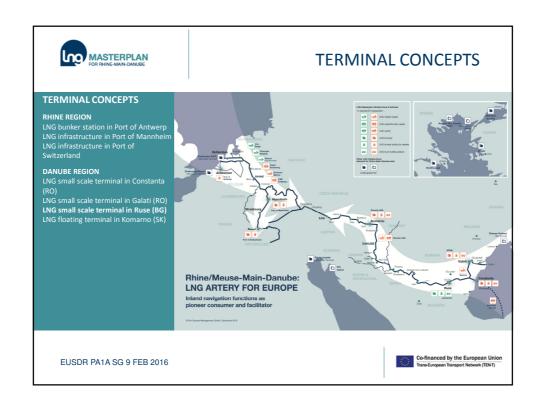


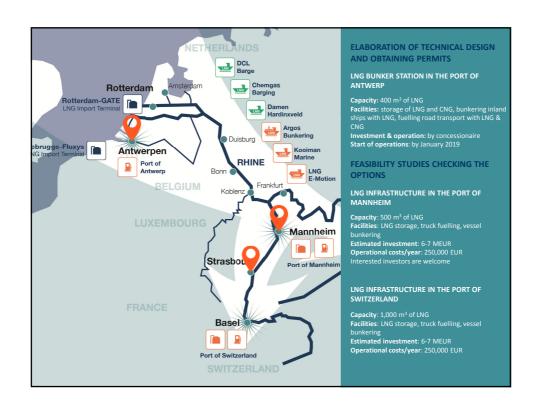






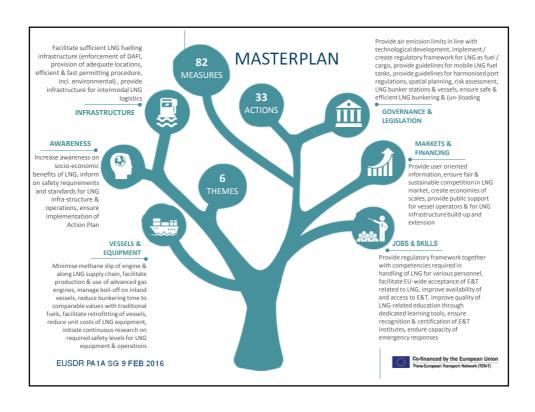




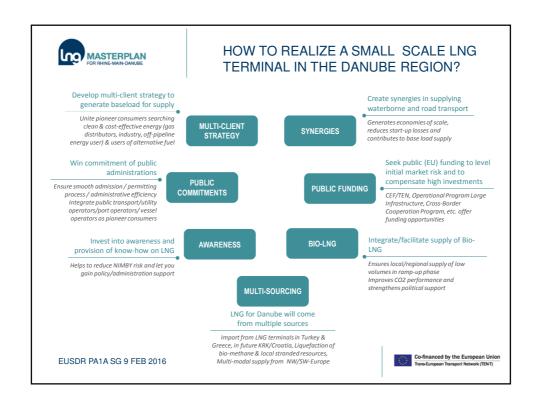








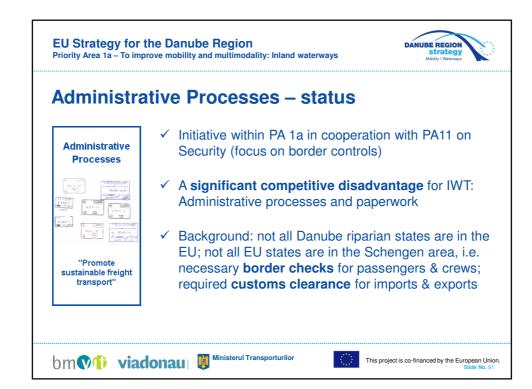


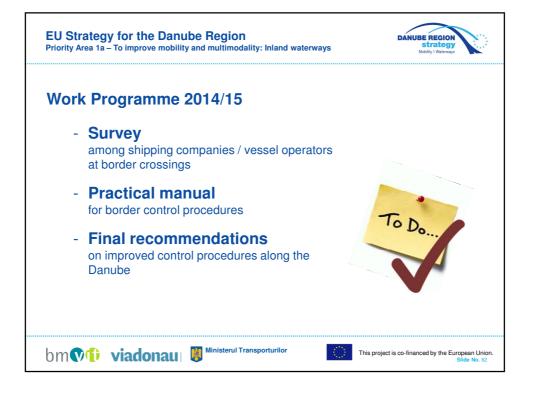












Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways



Survey results

- Reduce idle time at control points
- Simplify and harmonize forms
- Enable e-submission of required data
- Conduct controls service-oriented



- Provide us with solid arguments and are a mandate to initiate measures
- > Were brought to the attention of the involved control authorities and decision-makers at the EU-level
- > Have been taken up in the final recommendations









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Practical manual for border control procedures

- one chapter per country including an overview on the steps of the control process and control forms
- per border crossing point: involved authorities, contact information and opening hours, overview of the places of control, useful additional information



Objectives

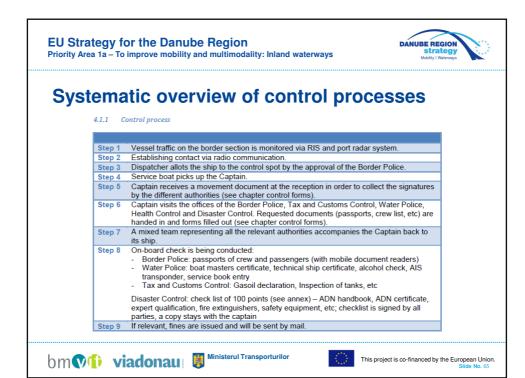
- Compare procedures and raise awareness at control points for the steps skippers have to undergo, provide basis for harmonization
- > Ensure time-efficient controls for involved authorities and skippers
- > Facilitate market entry for newcomers, reduce disadvantages caused by lack of information







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Final recommendations

20 measures to...

- Harmonise and simplify border controls
- Establish time-efficient, service-oriented and transparent border controls
- Introduce electronical tools to improve the efficiency of border controls
- > Impulses for effective and efficient border control procedures
- Plan the next steps in cooperation with control authorities and shipping companies / vessel operators



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Next steps

viadonau continues the efforts within the Austrian Action Programme Danube in order to

- Agree on responsibilities and time frame for the implementation of the 20 measures together with
- shipping companies, international associations and border control authorities

Upcoming Working Group Meeting on administrative processes:

28th June 2016 in Linz (in the framework of the Danube Business Talks)







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Status report of Working Group on jobs and skills

Ms Ghiuler Manole, CERONAV









Harmonization of professional training standards for inland waterway transport

Ghiuler Manole Head of European Funds and IMO Dept.

Brussels, 9 Feb. 2016, 10th Meeting of the PA1a Steering Group



Existing Framework

- ➤ Council Directive 91/672/EEC of 16 December 1991 on the reciprocal recognition of national Boat Masters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway
- ➤ Council Directive 96/50/EC of 23 July 1996 on the harmonization of the conditions for obtaining boast masters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway in the Community

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State of play

Common European Challenges:

- Increasing scarcity of crews, boat masters and entrepreneurs (ageing)
- Lack of Common rules for the access to the profession and on professional qualifications that rely on modern technologies and make the profession more attractive
- Too many administrations and organizations at European level dealing with the same topics

Specific challenges in the Danube region:

 Fragmented legal framework governing skills and qualifications in the IWT sector a major barrier for recognition of qualifications of IWT personnel, mobility of IWT work force and adoption of new technologies

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Actions needed

- Set up of common rules for the access to the profession and on professional qualifications that rely on modern technologies and make the profession more attractive
- Simplification and strengthening of the organisational framework
- New initiative on the recognition and modernization of professional qualifications of all crews

Ultimate goal:

 streamlining the legal framework related to professional qualifications in the European IWT sector and making it competence-based and facilitation of vertical and horizontal mobility

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Former steps - EDINNA

The Joint Working Group (JWG), set up by EDINNA within PLATINA project and consisting out of experts from the European Barge Union (EBU), the European Skippers Organisation (ESO), the European Transport Workers Federation (ETF), Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR), Danube Commission (DC), Sava Commission (SC) composed the first concept of a document that is meant to support the introduction of harmonized Standards of Training and Certification in Inland Navigation (STCIN) for the education and training system in Europe.

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Former steps - EDINNA

The JWG agreed on seven chapters of professional competencies for two levels of responsibility, Management level (Boatmaster - ML) and Operational Level (Boatman - OL):

- 1. Navigation
- 2. Cargo handling, stowage and passenger transport
- 3. Controlling the operation of the ship
- 4. Marine engineering and electrical, electronic and control engineering
- 5. Maintenance and repair
- 6. Communication
- 7. Safety, health and environmental protection

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Contribution of CCNR

 On 2 May 2013 DG MOVE and CCNR signed an administrative arrangement for 3 main areas of cooperation including modernisation of professional qualifications for crew members.

☐ CCNR Achievements:

Recognition of training courses for Boatmen (Resolutions 2015-II-11 and 2015-II-12): The Boatman qualifications obtained on successfully completing a training course at the boatmen's training institute in Děčín (Czech Republic) and at CERONAV (Romania) have been recognized (entry into force on 1 December 2015).

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Latest Developments – Set up of CESNI

Set up in June 2015 of the European Committee for drawing up standards in the field of inland navigation (CESNI):

Mission (applicable to professional qualifications):

- Adopting technical standards in various fields, in particular as regards vessels, information technology and crew;
- Deliberating on the uniform interpretation and application of the said standards, on the method for applying and implementing the corresponding procedures, on procedures for exchanging information and on the supervisory mechanisms among the Member States

Duration: 3 years, until 2018

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CESNI - Composition

- Member States of CCNR and the EU with voting rights on the basis of one vote per State;
- Representatives of European Commission and international organizations, without voting rights;
- At the invitation of the Committee and without voting rights:
 - Representatives of international NGOs approved by the Committee;
 - Representatives of States which are not members of EU or CCNR;
 - Representatives of classification societies;
 - Individual experts on a particular topic

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CESNI – Work in progress

- Preparation of the draft work programme for the CESNI Working group on professional qualifications (CESNI/QP);
- Preparation of a standard for required professional competences
- Preparation of European standards on the use of handling simulators in inland navigation (by CCNR alone)

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CERONAV past contribution to the harmonization process

- Consistent contribution to development of Platina Tables of Competencies as project partner and founding member of FDINNA:
- Inventory of education and training institutions and curricula thereof in NELI project;
- Development of 3 harmonized courses in NELI project;
- Consistent contribution to the public consultation on professional qualifications carried out by DG Move in 2013 (translation, promotion and delivery of half of responses received) during HINT project
- · Mutual recognition of Boatmen Qualification course by CCNR

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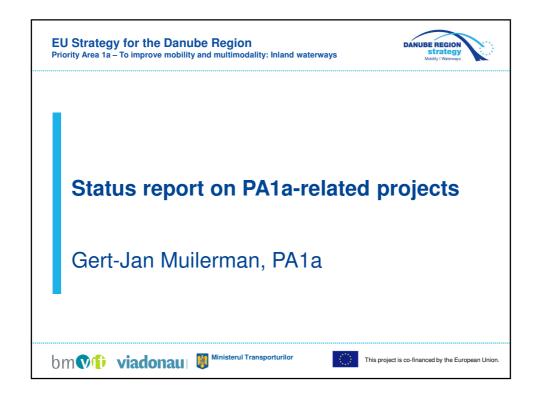


CERONAV future contribution to the harmonization process

- Preparation and submission of the project proposal Danube SKILLS on the Expression of Interest step of the first call for proposals of the Danube Transnational Programme
- · Project details:
 - Priority Area 4 Well Governed Danube Region
 - Specific Objective 4.1 Improve institutional capacities to tackle major societal challenges
 - Consortium of 14 partners from RO, AT, HU, SK, BG, HR and RS and 8 Associated Strategic Partners including most of the prominent organizations part of CESNI/QP
 - Duration: 30 months
 - Budget: 1.8 MEUR
 - Estimated start of project: October-November 2016

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> EUSDR PA 1a project activities: Status quo

Status: 03/12/2015	Waterway Infrastructure	Waterway Management	Ports and Sustainable Transport	Fleet Modernisation	River Information Services	Education and Jobs	IWT Policies	TOTAL
TOTAL	33	13	28	12	9	4	5	104
Definition	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	8
Preparation	8	4	18	1	1	1	1	34
Implementation	18	3	8	7	4	0	2	42
Completion	3	5	1	3	4	2	2	20

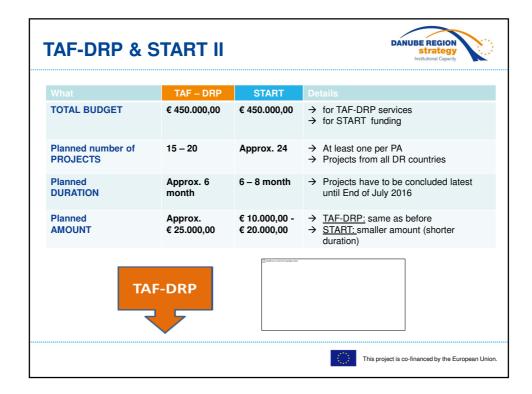
http://www.danube-navigation.eu/pages/projects











Status of START projects



POPEI

- Danube ports in the light of numbers introducing the new level of Port Performance Indicator System for the inland waterway port
- Lead partner: Hugarian Federation of Danube Ports (HFDP)
- Lead time: 05/2015 01/2016

TRAINING4PORT

- Building Competency-based training for Port Sector Labour Force in a supportive environment
- Lead partner: UPIR-Union of Romanian Inland Ports
- Lead time: 03/2015 02/2016

Both projects are progressing well and according to plan









This project is co-financed by the European Union

PA1a Letters of Recommendation



Criteria for issuing letters of recommendation for project initiatives:

- The project complies with any of the targets and/or the corresponding actions established for Priority Area 1a of the Danube Region Strategy and demonstrates added value for this Priority Area.
- The project has an **impact on the macro-region** or a significant part of it, which can derive from regional and local activities as well.
- The major part of the project, its activities or its related **impacts are located** in the Danube region.
- A proposal for the **project must be ready for submission** or must have been submitted to a specific call of a relevant funding scheme (reference to the call will be made in the Letter of Recommendation).







PA1a Letters of Recommendation



- The PACs have received requests for a letter of recommendation for four
 - Upgrade Gabčíkovo locks
 - Constanta Green Port
 - PROTECT
 - SWIM
- Based on the labelling criteria, the PACs ask the Steering Group to endorse the issue of letters of recommendation for these project initiatives.









This project is co-financed by the European Union

Upgrade of Gabčíkovo locks



Objective(s) of project:

- The Work Plan of the European Coordinator for the Rhine-Danube Corridor define the Gabčíkovo locks as a critical bottleneck for the Corridor's development as well.
- The proposed project "Upgrade of the Gabčíkovo locks" deals with the most important issue on the Slovak stretch of the river Danube: the project to upgrade the Gabčíkovo locks aims at providing the modernization of Gabčíkovo locks and consequently will provide continuous and stable navigation conditions for both of the Gabčíkovo locks and ensure a safe passage through the locks.

Lead Partner: Waterborne Transport Development Agency (Agentúra rozvoja vodnej dopravy) / Slovak Republic







Constanta Green Port



Objective(s) of project (selection):

- Develop and implement a permanent environmental management system (EMS) as part of the company's Management Information System (MIS) and as integrated element of the Business Strategy
- Improve environmental performance of all relevant port activities by increasing energy efficiency, reduction of eco-footprint, awareness raising and training of employees
- Implement dedicated pilot measures in the port to monitor and counterbalance the effects on the quality of air, soil, water, etc. for the first 2 years of a multi-annual Environmental Action Program

Lead Partner: National Company Maritime Ports Administration SA Constanta / Romania







This project is co-financed by the European Union.

PROTECT



Objective(s) of project (selection):

- Focus on safe maritime port access in the form of navigational aids, extension of basic infrastructure in the form of quays, reception facilities for oil and other waste and implementation of new facilities regarding the use of alternative energy.
- Upgrade of the port infrastructure in Constanta Port by extending berth with an additional 130 meters and creating a 4370 sq m platform
- Increasing the environmental profile of Constanta Port by building an on-shore ship waste collection facility on the newly created platform and by providing mobile equipment (5 vessels) to collect ship waste and fight against fires

Lead Partner: National Company Maritime Ports Administration SA Constanta / Romania







SMART Waterway Integrated Management (SWIM)

Objective(s) of project:

- The common Romanian Bulgarian Danube sector is known as difficult for navigation comprising around 32 critical points and it has also bottlenecks regarding the access in some ports (ex. Corabia Port). AFDJ and EAEMDR shall elaborate an integrated concept which will provide a common working tool for a better implementation of fairway rehabilitation measures.
- The proposed project "SMART Waterway Integrated Management" deals with the establishment of pilot concepts for fairway rehabilitation and increased safety of navigation and ports access. The pilot concepts including measures and procedures will be implemented by the development of an IT platform and equipment procurement.

Lead Partner: River Administration of the Lower Danube Galati (AFDJ) / Romania







This project is co-financed by the European Union

EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways



Decision:

→ The PA1a Steering Group agrees to issue letters of recommendation for the projects Upgrade Gabčíkovo locks, Constanta Green Port, PROTECT and SWIM







EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways



Decision on membership of the European Barge Union as permanent observer to the PA1a Steering Group









This project is co-financed by the European Union.

European Barge Union





The European Barge Union (EBU) represents the majority of the inland navigation industry in Europe. Its members are the national associations of barge owners and barge operators of the leading European inland navigation countries.

EBU's main objective is to represent the interests of the inland shipping industry at a European and international level and to contribute to the development of a sustainable and efficient European transport system..











EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways



Decisions and conclusions:

- Endorsement of proposed changes to reporting format of the **FAIRway Danube Action Plans**
- Support for letters of recommendation for following projects:
 - Upgrade Gabčíkovo locks
 - Constanta Green Port
 - PROTECT
 - **SWIM**
- Agreement to accept European Barge Union as permanent observer of PA1a Steering Group







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EU Strategy for the Danube Region Priority Area 1a - To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways



Save the dates:

- 4th May 2016: 11th PA1a Steering Group Meeting in Zagreb. Main theme: approval of FRMMP action plans and preparation ministerial conclusions on effective waterway maintenance (planned for June 2016)
- 24th May 2016: Working Group on Fleet Modernisation in Bucharest (in combination with PROMINENT project)
- 28th June 2016: in the framework of the Danube Business Talks in Linz (Austria)
 - Working group on "Administrative processes"
 - Working Group on "Waterway infrastructure and management"
- October 2016: 12th PA1a Steering Group in Bucharest + Working Group on "Waterway infrastructure and management"









