

EU Strategy for the Danube Region

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



Working Group on Administrative Processes

Linz | 28 June 2016



Administrative processes – border controls



- ✓ Initiative of **PA 1a** (Danube logistics sector) in cooperation with **PA11** (border control authorities)
- ✓ Background:
 - not all Danube riparian states are in the EU/ in the Schengen area -> necessary **border checks** and **customs clearance**
 - administrative processes and paperwork are seen as a **significant competitive disadvantage** for Danube navigation
 - introduction of temporary border controls and new control mechanisms as a result of the European migrant crisis
- ✓ Urgent need for **simplification, harmonisation** and **digitalisation**

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First results of the Working Group



Know-how exchange:

- Technical meetings between PA1a, PA11 and the DARIF project (cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies and border control authorities)
- Visit to the DARIF Joint Operation at the border control point in Mohács



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First results of the Working Group



Outputs

- **Survey**
among shipping companies / vessel operators
at border crossings
- **Practical manual**
for border control procedures
- **Final recommendations**
on improved control procedures along the
Danube



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Survey on border controls



Objectives

- enter discussions with solid arguments and have a mandate to initiate necessary measures
- bring results to the attention of the involved control authorities and decision-makers at the EU-level

Contents and distribution

- Collection of information and feedback on specific & recent controls
- Survey was distributed at control points, sent to shipping companies via e-mail and published online via www.danube-navigation.eu



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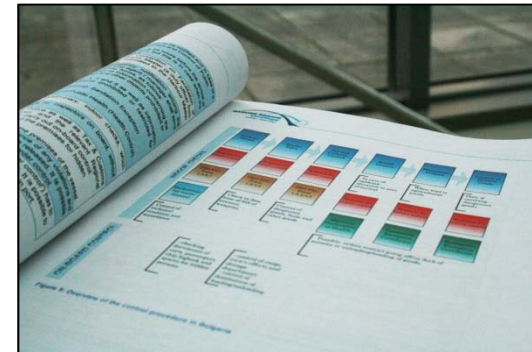


Practical manual for border control procedures

- Compare procedures and raise awareness at control points for the steps skippers and ship crews have to undergo (e.g. forms, procedures, responsibilities)
- Reduce disadvantages caused by lack of information for all involved actors and facilitate market entry for newcomers

Contents

- one chapter per country and detailed information on specific border control points
- opening hours, contact information of control authorities, place of controls etc.
- steps of the control process including requested forms



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Recommendations for improved border controls



- Impulses for transparent, effective and efficient border control procedures
- Basis for concrete measures to be implemented in cooperation with decision makers and responsible control authorities

Contents

- General recommendations for a better transnational coordination of border controls along the Danube
- A detailed work programme including a detailed description of measures, responsibilities, time frame
- Summary of additional difficulties, inconveniences and improvements suggested by the shipping sector to be discussed in future working group meetings



General recommendations

Harmonise and simplify border controls

Recommendations to control authorities

Reduce the number of different forms to be filled in and provide multilingual versions

- M01. Draft a set of templates for selected forms to be unified and elaborate multilingual versions (1st phase: arrival- and departure reports, crew and passenger lists, list of supplies)
- M02. Reach a stepwise agreement among control authorities to apply the unified forms
- M03. Extend the preliminary set of unified forms with templates for the remaining ones (2nd phase: health declaration, dangerous goods declaration, etc)

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General recommendations

Harmonise and simplify border controls



Recommendations to control authorities

Improve the collaboration between Border Control Points

- M04. Provide transnational training and know-how exchange for control bodies in order to ensure harmonised control mechanisms along the Danube (with a special focus on regulations regarding the transport of dangerous goods – ADN)



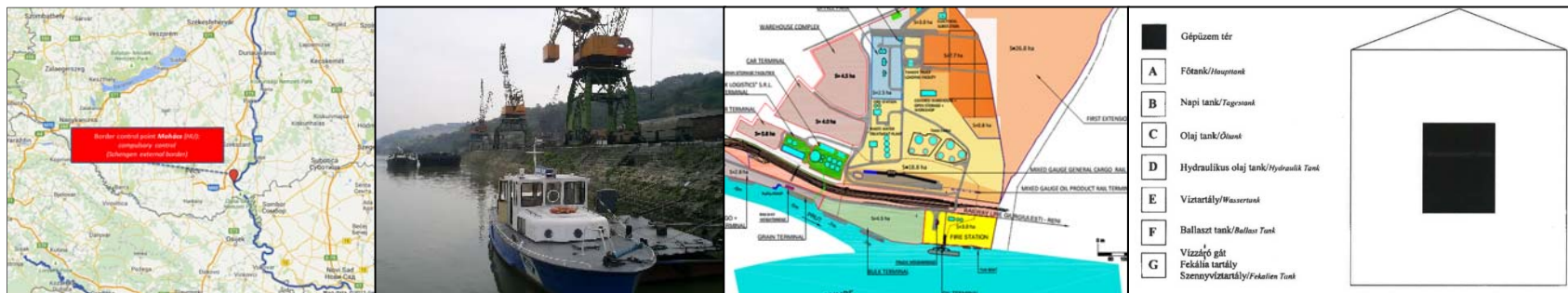
General recommendations

Harmonise and simplify border controls

Recommendations to shipping companies and vessel operators

Practical Manual on Border Controls along the Danube and its navigable tributaries

- M05. Update and disseminate the “Practical Manual on Border Controls along the Danube and its navigable tributaries”



General recommendations

Establish time-efficient, service-oriented & transparent border controls

Recommendations to control authorities

Reduce waiting time and duration of controls

- M06. Monitor the observance of officially published opening hours at all control points (short term measure)
- M07. Offer 24/7 opening hours at all control points by prior appointment (long term measure)
- M08. Apply a transparent queuing system and inform about expected waiting times
- M09. Use additional personnel or re-organise composition of control teams to carry out the controls of several ships in parallel (when necessary)

General recommendations

Establish time-efficient, service-oriented & transparent border controls

Recommendations to control authorities

Conduct controls in a purposeful and service-oriented way

- M10. Limit the number of officials entering the ship, as they intrude upon the privacy of the ship's crew
- M11. Review control processes and forms to evaluate the purpose of all requested data and information



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General recommendations

Establish time-efficient, service-oriented & transparent border controls



Recommendations to control authorities

Prevent unjustified payments of fees and fines

- M12. Install an independent complaints office which collects complaints and brings them forward to the responsible authorities
- M13. Abolish landing fees during controls

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General recommendations

Establish time-efficient, service-oriented & transparent border controls



Recommendations to shipping companies and vessel operators

Come prepared to the control points along the Danube and discuss difficulties directly with the control authorities

- M14. Review the information and data from the Practical Manual (e.g. control steps, control forms, duration of controls) and provide feedback to the Technical Secretariat of the EUSDR PA1a
- M15. Discuss issues addressed by multiple/repeated complaints in the international working group (DRS PA1a working group)

General recommendations

Introduce electronic tools to improve the efficiency of border controls

Recommendations to control authorities

Enable the electronic submission and processing of data

- M16. Enable the electronic submission of forms harmonised in M01 and M02 prior to the control (1st phase: arrival- and departure reports, crew and passenger lists, list of supplies)
- M17. Implement database with standard vessel information for ships regularly passing certain border control points making use of existing systems (whenever feasible)

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General recommendations

Introduce electronic tools to improve the efficiency of border controls



Recommendations to control authorities

Schedule arrivals at control points via an electronic registration tool

- M18. Implement an electronic registration tool to schedule the arrival of ships at control points (precondition for 24/7 controls by prior appointment)

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General recommendations

Introduce electronic tools to improve the efficiency of border controls



Recommendations to shipping companies and vessel operators

Provide accurate electronic data

- M19. Publish and disseminate a user manual for the developed electronic tool used during the control process
- M20. Participate as test user in a pilot regarding the electronic submission and processing of ship, cargo and crew/passenger related data



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Work Programme



M01. Draft a set of templates for selected forms to be unified and elaborate multilingual versions (1st phase: arrival- and departure reports, crew and passenger lists, list of supplies)

- Coordinator / Implementing body
- Time frame

M04. Provide transnational training and know-how exchange for control bodies in order to ensure harmonised control mechanisms along the Danube (with a special focus on regulations regarding the transport of dangerous goods – ADN)

- Coordinator / Implementing body
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Work Programme



M05. Update and disseminate the “Practical Manual on Border Controls along the Danube and its navigable tributaries”

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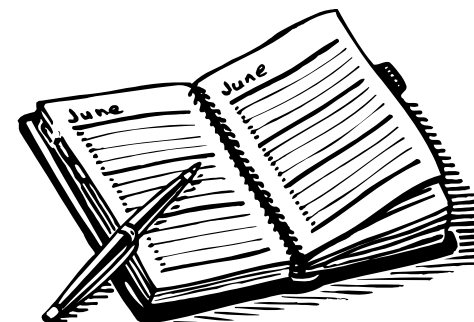
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Time schedule – implementation phase



- **09/2016** **Elaboration of detailed implementation plans by coordinators in cooperation with other implementing bodies**
- **01/2017** **Joint PA1a/PA11 Working Group: Interim implementation reports**
- **06/2017** **Joint PA1a/PA11 Working Group: Final implementation reports
Selection of follow-up measures**



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Thank you for your attention!



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