

Project Data Sheet

BASIC PROJECT DATA			
Full project title:	Integrated River Engineering Project / Catalogue of Measures for the Danube East of Vienna		
Short project title: (acronym)	IREP	Project logo:	n.a.
Project website:	www.viadonau.org/fgp	Project ID:	PA1A031
Need and added value for Danube Region Strategy:	<p>On a section with a total length of about 48 km, from the Freudenau hydro power plant in Vienna to the Austrian-Slovakian border, the Danube still has its free-flowing character. Due to reduced sediment transport downstream of the hydro-power plant in Vienna, a degradation of the riverbed has taken place, resulting in a decoupling of the river and its floodplains as well as in falling groundwater levels.</p> <p>Additional ecological deficits have been caused by river engineering structures which were erected in the past centuries and which endanger the habitats of the typical local flora and fauna of the Donau-Auen National Park. Regarding navigable conditions, there are inadequate fairway depths and restricted fairway widths in this section, which negatively affect the competitiveness of inland waterway transport, both in Austria and on an international level, as the majority of transports on the Danube waterway is of international and long-distance character.</p> <p>The Catalogue of measures for the Danube east of Vienna is the result of an integrative planning process and a multi-year concept based on a pilot project phase, offering compatible solutions for both navigation and ecology (see planned activities below). This interdisciplinary planning approach is often described as best practice, especially due to the extent of stakeholder participation, which may serve as role model for other infrastructure efforts.</p>		
Objective(s) of project:	<p>The river engineering measures for the Danube east of Vienna are the result of an integrative approach and follow the subsequent three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilization of water levels (counteracting riverbed degradation) • Improvement of ecological conditions (especially of the Danube floodplain habitats) • Improvement of nautical conditions in low-water periods 		
Planned project activities:	<p>The Catalogue of Measures contains both procedures of everyday business operations (maintenance activities) and river engineering optimisation projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedload management in order to stabilize surface and ground water levels (bedload redistribution and the addition of gravel) as well as safeguarding of critical areas prone to riverbed erosion. • Optimisation of regulating structures in order to ensure navigability also during low water periods and to reduce operating costs of waterway infrastructure. In areas of riverbed erosion, regulating measures can be moderately reduced by widening the channel to relieve pressure on the riverbed. • River bank restorations (removal of stone armouring) and reconnection of side-arms to improve ecological conditions. These measures also contribute to reduce riverbed degradation and lower flood water levels. • Additional small-scale measures are planned such as the further development of the interface between waterway and traffic management. 		

Project Data Sheet

	Scientific accompaniment of these measures guarantees a constant learning process. Furthermore stakeholder participation plays an important role in order to meet the interdisciplinary targets.		
Transboundary impact:	As the transport of goods on the Danube and its tributaries has an international and long-distance character, the entire Danube region benefits from the measures. The restoration measures will also improve the Danube's function as an ecological corridor and a lifeline with positive effects especially on the wetlands of the trilateral Danube-Morava-Thaya region.		
Project beneficiaries / target groups:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shippers • Navigation companies/transport operators • Forwarding agents • Donau-Auen National Park 		
STATUS AND TIME FRAME			
Current project phase: (please tick a box)	<input type="checkbox"/> Definition (e.g. project idea, abstract) <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation (e.g. project proposal, feasibility study) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Completion		
Start date:	2005	End date:	2030
Notes:	<p>Within the conception- and pilot-project-phase, six pilot projects were realised to gain experience and to reduce technical and economic risks. These projects addressed all measures foreseen on the Danube east of Vienna and were accompanied by scientific monitoring. A tailored stakeholder participation model was implemented in 2012.</p> <p>Based on the outcomes of this phase and considering current developments in waterway and traffic management, the Catalogue of Measures was designed to achieve both ecological and nautical conservation targets on the Danube east of Vienna. The catalogue consists of maintenance and conservation activities as well as separate optimisation projects. Besides involving various different interest groups, the scientific monitoring and accompaniment of measures, plays an important role in finding and achieving socially and environmentally compatible solutions.</p>		
PROJECT TEAM			
Project leader:	via donau – Österreichische Wasserstraßen-Gesellschaft mbH / Austria		
Project partner(s):	Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology / Austria		
Contact person:	Name:	-	
	Organisation:	via donau – Österreichische Wasserstraßen-Gesellschaft mbH	
	Address:	Donau-City-Straße 1, 1220 Wien, Austria	
	Phone:	-	

Project Data Sheet

	E-Mail:	-
	Website:	www.viaddonau.org
FINANCING		
Available: (please tick a box)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partly <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Total budget:	approx. 222 Mio. EUR (index 2016)	
Source(s) and amount (potential sources for project ideas): (please tick a box and provide further info)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National/regional funds:	State budget is assigned on the basis of a long-term agreement and the actual government programme, but based on yearly budgets.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EU funds:	The conception- and pilot-project-phase was co-financed by TEN-T programme until 2015. Additional funding is needed to achieve the objectives within the planned timetable.
	<input type="checkbox"/> IFI loans:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private funds:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
PROJECT ENVIRONMENT		
Project cross-reference:	-	
Cross-reference ID(s):	-	
Strategic reference:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication from the Commission on the promotion of inland waterway transport "NAIADES" – an integrated European action programme for inland waterway transport (SEC(2006) 34) • Rhine-Danube Core Network Corridor of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) of the European Union • Austrian National "Actionprogramme Danube 2022" of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (Aktionsprogramm Donau des bmvit bis 2022) • Austrian Government Programme 2013-2018, Section "Traffic and Infrastructure" • Austrian Implementation of the Water Framework Directive • (already expired) transport master plan „Gesamtverkehrsplan“ for Austria until 2015 of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology 	
Relevant legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measure pursuant to the Austrian Federal Waterways Act 2004; §2, sub-section 1 • National legislation (water, navigation, environmental, and others) • Water Framework Directive 	

<p>Other:</p>	<p>The integrative planning process and the measures are described in the “Joint Statement on Inland Navigation and Environmental Sustainability in the Danube River Basin” and the PLATINA Manual for sustainable waterway planning and are also referenced in the guidance document „Inland waterway transport and Natura 2000” by the European Commission.</p>
<p>EUSDR EMBEDDING</p>	
<p>Relation to other Priority Areas of the Danube Region Strategy:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA1b: To improve mobility and multimodality – Road, rail and air links <input type="checkbox"/> PA02: To encourage more sustainable energy <input type="checkbox"/> PA03: To promote culture and tourism, people and people contacts <input type="checkbox"/> PA04: To restore and maintain the quality of waters <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA05: To manage environmental risks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PA06: To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils <input type="checkbox"/> PA07: To develop the knowledge society through research, education and information technologies <input type="checkbox"/> PA08: To support the competitiveness of enterprises, including cluster development <input type="checkbox"/> PA09: To invest in people and skills <input type="checkbox"/> PA10: To step up institutional capacity and cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> PA11: To work together to promote security and tackle organised and serious crime
<p>EUSDR COMPLIANCE</p>	
<p>Compliance with targets of the Danube Region Strategy:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 2020. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> Implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international exchange of RIS data preferably by 2020. <input type="checkbox"/> Solve the shortage of qualified personnel and harmonize education standards in inland navigation in the Danube region by 2020, taking duly into account the social dimension of the respective measures.
<p>Compliance with actions of the Danube Region Strategy:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To complete the implementation of TEN-T Priority Project 18 (now Rhine-Danube Corridor) on time and in an environmentally sustainable way. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To invest in waterway infrastructure of Danube and its tributaries and develop the interconnections.

Project Data Sheet

	<input type="checkbox"/> To modernise the Danube fleet in order to improve environmental and economic performance. <input type="checkbox"/> To coordinate national transport policies in the field of navigation in the Danube basin. <input type="checkbox"/> To support Danube Commission in finalising the process of reviewing the Belgrade Convention. <input type="checkbox"/> To develop ports in the Danube river basin into multimodal logistics centres. <input type="checkbox"/> To improve comprehensive waterway management of the Danube and its tributaries. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To promote sustainable freight transport in the Danube Region. <input type="checkbox"/> To implement harmonised River Information Services (RIS). <input type="checkbox"/> To invest in education and jobs in the Danube navigation sector.
Affiliation to thematic working group of Priority Area 1a of the EUSDR:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterway infrastructure and management <input type="checkbox"/> Ports and sustainable freight transport <input type="checkbox"/> Danube fleet <input type="checkbox"/> River Information Services <input type="checkbox"/> Education and jobs
OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES	
Project requirements:	<p>The planned measures are realized in the environmentally sensitive area of the Donau-Auen National Park. Therefore it was essential to incorporate the needs of this precious ecosystem in the project.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary planning and stakeholder involvement are key issues for the successful implementation.</p>
Follow-up project:	–
Any other issues:	–