

Integrating Danube Region into Smart & Sustainable Multi-modal & Intermodal Transport Chains



The aim of the DIONYSUS project was to address main regional challenges in port infrastructure governance and planning to facilitate the integration of the Danube Region ports into smart and sustainable multi-modal transport chains. The project was the result of the fruitful collaboration process among port administrations and operators, business associations, academia, and the national authorities of the Danube riparian countries.

Boosting Port Development

The results of DIONYSUS fed into the elaboration of transport corridor development policies by means of gap analysis reports and recommendations. The project provided the necessary framework to identify shortcomings in rail and road access infrastructure of the Danube ports and consolidate investment needs based on comprehensive market analyses. Matching port planning with transport infrastructure and Regional Economic Development Plans delivered concrete recommendations for their adaptations in line with the specific needs and priorities of the sector, corresponding with the current greening and digitalisation trends in Europe. Targeted and niche-specific case studies for **Container Liner Services** and Agricultural Products have been developed, whereas an **Infrastructure Master Plan for the river cruise industry** was elaborated to cover the tourism sector as well. Other essential outputs of the project resulted in the elaboration of **Port Development Plans** as well as **Operational & Business Models** aiming to support sustainable development and investment decisions. All the outputs elaborated in the frame of DIONYSUS ensured the alignment with specific EU future Transport, TEN-T and Cohesion Policy objectives, making DIONYSUS a key instrument to efficiently implement the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Highlights 2022

High on the agenda of the final year of the DIONYSUS project was the **Danube Ports Day 2022**, successfully organised by Pro Danube and the Maritime Ports Administration Constanța with the support of the Danube Ports Network. By bringing together numerous experts from the Danube Region and beyond, the event provided insights into policy, logistics and digitalisation developments. It was concluded that proper navigability conditions need to be adequately ensured and maintained continuously in order to enable the functioning of reliable logistic services, whereas digitalisation is an indispensable prerequisite for the implementation of the ambitious climate goals enshrined in the European Green Deal.

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The launch of the second edition of the Danube Ports Handbook is another important milestone reached in 2021. This publication is based on the results of a survey which was carried out amongst the ports of the Danube Region to collect information on port traffic in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic covering the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Strategic coordination meetings between the DPN and representatives of EUSDR PA1a & PA1b, EFIP, representatives of the European Commission, the Danube Commission as well as with representatives of the RIS COMEX and DIWA projects continued throughout the entire year. Other important activities of the DPN included the monitoring of several national and European funding opportunities such as AWS, FFG, Horizon Europe, CEF II and Interreg Danube.

The release of three project newsletters published during 2022 is equally important to be mentioned. The elaboration of these editions was actively supported and disseminated by the DPN within the Danube Region's port community and well beyond, with the DPN contributing to raising awareness on the final results of DIONYSUS and the milestones.

A project video promoting DIONYSUS activities as well as their results for the benefit of the Danube port community was released and officially launched at the DIONYSUS Final Event in Constanța, Romania.

Partnership

ERDF Partners

Pro Danube Romania (RO); Ennshafen Port (AT); iC consulenten ZT GesmbH (AT); Wieser Consult Ltd (AT); Pro Danube Management GmbH (AT); Public Ports JSC (SK); Hungarian Federation of Danube Ports (HU); Public Institution Port Authority Vukovar (HR); Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, and Communications (RO); National Company Maritime Ports Administration SA Constanta (RO); Romanian River Ship Owners and Port Operators Association (RO); Bulgarian-Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BG); Port Bulmarket EAD (BG); Wieser Consult Romania (RO).

IPA Partners

Port Governance Agency (RS); University of Belgrade – Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering (RS)

ENI Partners

State Enterprise “Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority (UA); Technical University of Moldova (MD)

Associated Partners

Port of Vienna (AT); University of Zilina (SK); Danube Cruises Romania SRL (RO); Ministry of Innovation and Technology (HU); Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure (HR); International Sava River Basin Commission (HR); Danube Logistics SRL (MD); National Company the Administration of River Ports on the Danube J.S.Co Giurgiu (RO).

Contact

Pro Danube Management GmbH, Grünbergstraße 15, Stiege 1, 5th floor, 1120 Vienna, Austria

