EU Strategy for the Danube Region – framework for development of inland navigation

Belgrade, 6 March 2013
International Conference „Sava River – A Transport corridor & tourist destination“
Markus Simoner, via donau
EU Strategy for the Danube Region
Priority Area 1a – To improve mobility and multimodality: Inland waterways

Macrouregional strategies of the EU

- Baltic Sea Strategy (2009 -)
- Danube Region Strategy (2011 -)

14 Danube Region countries
10 Danube Riparian countries
Inland Navigation

Priority Area 1a: Connectivity

Improvement of mobility & intermodality – inland waterways

Austria

= Coordinator

= Technical Secretariat

Romania

= Coordinator & Technical Secretariat
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Sava river

The Sava River Basin as a Danube sub-basin

- **Basin area**: 95 720 km² (the second largest, after the Tisza basin)
- **Average flow** (at the mouth): 1722 m³/s (the largest tributary)
- **River length**: 940 km (586 km of which were navigable before the war)

Integrative Approach within the EUSDR – example Danube river

DANUBE?
Integrative Approach within the EUSDR - example Danube river

- The Danube is a multifunctional system
- Two key success factors for positive development of all aspects:

**COEXISTANCE & COOPERATION**
Final targets for inland navigation

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) Implement harmonized **River Information Services (RIS)** on the Danube and its navigable tributaries and ensure the international **exchange of RIS data** preferably by 2015.
Final targets for inland navigation

(4) 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.

(5) Increase the **cargo transport** on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010.
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Working Groups: Thematic Areas

The following five thematic Working Groups are foreseen for implementing the EUDRS's Action Plan for Priority Area 1a:

- **Waterway Infrastructure**
  - "Improve waterway infrastructure and waterway management"

- **Ports and Sustainability**
  - "Develop multimodal ports and sustainable freight transport"

- **Danube Fleet**
  - "Modernize the Danube fleet"

- **River Information Services**
  - "Implement River Information Services"

- **Education and Jobs**
  - "Invest in education & jobs"
Working Groups

Vienna, 15/16 March 2012 and Belgrade 7/8 November 2012
More than 70 attendants

➢ Discussion & Feedback of attendants regarding:
  • waterway infrastructure
  • integrative waterway management
  • ports & sustainable freight transport
  • fleet modernisation
  • River Information Services
  • education & jobs

➢ Detailed minutes available online at www.danube-navigation.eu

Next Working Group meeting: 16/17 April 2013 in Linz – open for stakeholders!
Up-to-date information on PA 1a website

www.danube-navigation.eu

- Current and continuous information about ongoing activities in PA 1a: Inland Waterways (news, events, meetings etc.)
- Documents (agenda, presentations, lists of attendance etc.) related to Working Group (WG) and Steering Group (SG) meetings
- Overview on the current status of projects / project ideas related to PA 1a; 91 data sheets online
Preparation of EUSDR "flagship project": Innovative Danube Vessel

- Study commissioned by PAC 1a (via donau) on behalf of DG REGIO
- Overall objective: Elaboration and development of innovative vessel and technology solutions with high potential for implementation on the Danube
- Analysis of solutions derived from existing R&D projects with respect to their potential for implementation and further development in the Danube region
- Provision of recommendations for further technology development within the framework of the Danube Region Strategy
- Project duration: 18 months (until end of 2013)
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“Declaration concerning Effective waterway infrastructure maintenance on the Danube and its navigable tributaries” (7 June 2012)

• The transport ministers of the Danube riparian states agreed on a declaration to avoid a repeat of 2011 navigation standstills.

• The ministers of Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia signed / endorsed the declaration.

• The Ukraine has also indicated to endorse the Declaration.

• Hungary has not yet signed the declaration.
Follow-up of the Declaration in PA 1a

- Signatory countries compile national reports (annual basis) on implementation status

- Presentation & Discussion of these reports during next Working Group and Steering Group meeting of PA1a: 16-18 April in Linz

- The Coordinators of PA 1a will draft a consolidated report and forward it to the European Commission by mid of 2013

- Working Group = Dialogue platform between waterway administrations and the relevant public and private stakeholders (industry, NGO´s)!
Conclusions & Outlook

➢ The EU Danube Region Strategy is the appropriate international framework for a coordinated improvement of the Danube Region’s inland waterway systems.

➢ The involvement of institutional actors (EU, Danube Region countries, international organisations) & relevant stakeholders (industry, NGO’s) is essential for a successful implementation of the Action Plan.

➢ Next Working Group meeting of PA 1a on 16-17 April Linz (Austria): register under: http://www.danube-navigation.eu
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