

NEWADA NEWSLETTER

GENERAL INFORMATION

NEWADA (Network of Danube Waterway Administrations) is a transnational project funded by the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, comprising **12 project partners** from **8 Danube countries** - Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine. The consortium is coordinated by via donau – Austrian Waterway Company as Lead Partner.

The **project aims** at increasing the efficiency of the Danube as the European Transport Corridor VII by **intensifying the cooperation between Waterway Administrations** to promote inland navigation as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly mode of transport.

The project activities are split up in **6 work packages**:

WP 1 – Project management

WP 2 – Dissemination

WP 3 – Intensify cooperation on hydrographical and hydrological activities

WP 4 – Improve physical accessibility of waterway infrastructure

WP 5 – Enhance accessibility to ICT networks and services

WP 6 – Integrate responsible stakeholders and foster cooperation

PROJECT STATUS

Project management (WP 1) and dissemination (WP 2)

Since the official Kick-off of NEWADA project management activities were executed regularly including the elaboration and submission of project progress reports on partner and on project level as well and the organization of regular project meetings and workshops. The internal partner portal and project **website** (<http://www.newada.eu>) have been maintained and updated providing up-to-date information on the project progress. Furthermore a new section has been implemented on the website (output) where all the **deliverables of the project** are available for download. On 10-11th June the project was introduced to the participants of the European Inland Waterway Navigation Conference in Baja and a short clip has also been prepared on NEWADA by a **film crew** commissioned by DG REGIO. The next **DISC Conference (DISC'10)** will take place on 3rd-4th November in Ruse. On the agenda of this year's conference, the focus will be put on the achievements of the project NEWADA along with the annual reports and conclusions on RIS-related activities in other countries.

Cooperation on hydrological and hydrographical activities (WP 3)

The cooperation in this field will be intensified in order to achieve a higher impact. National strategy plans will be prepared to harmonize efforts and measures and due to different national procedures surveying activities will be established. The **status quo reports on hydrological and hydrographical activities** have already been delivered by each partner. The reports, together with the **compilation of results** elaborated by the work package leader, can be downloaded from the project's website. The main task for 2010 is the elaboration of strategy plans for each country. So far a trilateral meeting between SVP, Plovput and via donau took place in Belgrade on August 3rd, 2010 to discuss necessary next steps regarding the elaboration of common surveying standards as well as the national strategy plan.

Improvement of physical accessibility of waterway infrastructure (WP 4)

National action plans, feasibility studies, bilateral projects and implementation guidelines for improving waterway maintenance and river engineering as well as hydrographical and hydrological tasks will be worked out in cooperation with other Danube countries. All activities will be implemented in accordance with the European Water Framework Directive.

The **status quo reports on waterway maintenance** have been elaborated by the partners and the **compilation of results** out of the status quo reports has also been prepared by the work package leader. Major task of this work package for 2010 is the preparation of a national strategy plan.

Enhancement of accessibility to ICT networks and services (WP 5)

Main goal is to harmonize implementation of ICT networks and services (e.g. ENC's) and to elaborate Danube region strategic documents, such as guidelines. Relevant data for waterway administration and its interfaces will be defined, which will then be published on a web portal, where each country is responsible for its national information. Access points will be implemented at neuralgic points along the Danube waterway where only the web portal can be addressed.

The national **status quo reports on ENC's** have been elaborated and the partners agreed regarding standard, updating and quality. The conclusion was made that all Danube countries shall produce ENC's according to Inland ECDIS Standard 2.1. The specification process of the **NEWADA Danube FIS Portal** has also been started. On 9th June 2010 the FIS Portal **concept** were presented and discussed at the European Notices to Skippers Expert Group Meeting in Budapest. On 1st June WLAN meeting was organized in Budapest, where the progress of the installations and the joint testing approach were discussed.

Integrate responsible stakeholders and foster cooperation (WP 6)

As you have been informed a platform comprising the directors of the waterway administrations has been established called "Board of Directors" (BoD). Their third meeting took place in Bratislava on 22nd of June. The major topic was the presentation of the common understanding of future waterway administration objectives, which is drafted on basis of the **status quo reports on waterway management**. This common understanding shall be finalized until the end of 2010 and then a

national strategy plan for optimized waterway administration shall be prepared in 2011. The first meeting of the PR managers, so called **PR Manager workshop**, took place on the 14th of June in Vienna. The group discussed the current knowledge within the field PR and the expectations for the future. Furthermore a representative of the Platina project was present who informed about opinion of general public regarding inland navigation. The next meeting of this group is planned for autumn. In the run of the project it's foreseen that experts of each project partner have the possibility to visit other project partners. The first **expert exchange programme** took place in Budapest on June 2nd 2010. Vituki invited experts of ACN, via donau and SVP to present and discuss hydrological activities.

NEXT STEPS

On **3rd-4th November 2010**, in Ruse, a dissemination **conference** will be organized, where among others NEWADA activities and achievements will be presented. The organizational committee of the DISC'10 (Danube Information Services Conference) hopes to see many representatives of the **public and private sector** at this must-attend event as well.