

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)

Project management activities are 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 with all the delivered outputs of the project. Furthermore the project has been presented in the Danube Strategy Newsletter developed by INTERACT Pont Vienna in January. Copies have been forwarded to about 200 recipients: EU COM; EU Parliament; all ETC programmes in the Danube Regions, Committee of the Regions; EU27 High-level Group on macro-regions, and many other stakeholders. Thanks to the efforts of our Bulgarian partner EAEMDR after the 9th DISC Conference (DISC'10) many articles about NEWADA and the DISC have been published in different Bulgarian newspapers.



Cooperation on hydrological and hydrographical activities (WP 3)



As an objective of the project 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. **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. They provide information on one hand on the main hydrological activities in each participating country within the project describing the monitoring network system, the hydrological conditions and extreme flows

and flood disasters, on the other hand, concerning the hydrographical part, about surveying activities, measurement equipment, interval of measurements, data processing and management processes of the relevant waterway management organizations. In the next months one general **Report on common understanding on surveying activities** will be prepared based on the inputs of the partners, furthermore, each partner country has to provide a report called **National strategy plan for intensification of cross-border activities**.

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 describing in their country the river stretch characterisation from hydrological, morphological and navigation conditions point of view, their equipments, financial resources for waterway maintenance, internal and external workflow. The **compilation of results** out of the status quo reports has also been prepared by the work package leader and can be downloaded from the project's website.



Major remaining task of this work package is the preparation of a National Strategy Plan (NSP). Based on a common agreement the updated version of the template of the **National strategy plan for waterway maintenance** has been prepared, moreover the draft versions of the partners' NSPs have been presented as well.

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



Main goal of the project with regard to this issue 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

elaboration of "Concept for paper navigational charts" is planned to be finalised during spring 2011. The specification process of the **NEWADA Danube FIS Portal** has also been started; many technical issues were discussed during several project meetings. The implementation of the FIS Portal is planned to end in summer. As far as the **WLAN installations** are concerned, most partners have their system ready early 2011, some technical delays may occur. The next task after finalising the tests is to summarize the experiences and suggestions in a document called 'Implementation guide for future installations along the Danube'.

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). As a basis for the discussions between the participating directors on common future objectives of waterway administrations on the river Danube status quo reports have been elaborated including general information on the organizational and legal structures, the existing tasks and objectives as well as the available resources of each waterway administration. Based on these findings a set of recommendations shall be elaborated for every waterway administration, which aims at optimizing the framework conditions of the respective waterway administration. At the last BoD meeting it was presented that every partner shall

draft the "**National strategy plan for optimized waterway organization**" until the end of 2011. The third **PR Managers' workshop** took place from 9th-10th of March in Ruse and Giurgiu, where the common template for the national reports on comprehensive communication strategies for national waterway administrations has been presented. Besides this in order to foster the cooperation of the partner organizations in the run of the **expert exchange programme** several experts of the project partners have had so far and will still have the possibility to visit other project partners.

