

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



The **DIONYSUS** project is a follow-up of **DAPhNE (Danube Ports Network)**, having the core objective to address main regional challenges in port infrastructure governance and planning in order to facilitate the integration of the Danube Region ports into smart and sustainable multi-modal transport chains. The project is the result of the fruitful collaboration process among port administrations and operators, business associations, academia and the national authorities of the Danube riparian countries. Entering its second year of implementation, DIONYSUS is proud to report on several successfully rolled out initiatives.

Highlights 2021

One of the most important highlights of the year was the launch of two new key functionalities on the website of the Danube Ports Network: the **Digital Initiatives Observatory** and the **Port Knowledge Center**. Both instruments serve the DPN in its endeavour to reduce the development and innovation gaps of the ports situated on the Rhine-Danube Corridor, contributing to efficient project implementation, knowledge-creation and transfer as well as to synergies with EU transport policy initiatives and other port development related projects.

- Danube Ports Day 2021 successfully organised
- Launch of the Digital Initiatives Observatory and the Port Knowledge Center
- Successful roll-out of two important surveys on the digitalisation capabilities and needs of Danube Region ports as well as on the impact of COVID-19 on port operations
- Ongoing strategic coordination meetings between DPN and representatives of EUSDR PA1a & PA1b, EFIP, the EC & DC

High on the agenda of this year's activities was the second edition of the Danube Ports Day – the event of the year. Organised by Pro Danube Management and the Port Authority Vukovar, the event successfully brought together more than 70 experts from the Danube Region and beyond to discuss several interesting topics such as the potential of inland ports in urban mobility, fleet electrification as well as sustainable port logistics solutions. This year's event was organised back-to-back with a joint workshop on opportunities & requirements for the digitalisation of IWT in partnership with projects such as DIWA, RIS COMEX & PLATINA3.



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The launch of the first 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 and 2020. In fulfilling its role as knowledge creator, the DPN supported the elaboration and dissemination process of a survey to assess the digital capabilities, needs and preparedness of Danube Ports to the new digital era.

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. Moreover, the DPN actively participated at several events such as the FAIRway project final event, the official opening of the Giurgiu trimodal terminal and, last but not least, provided input to the CESNI/TI Hearing on RIS standards. 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 two project newsletters published during 2021 is equally important to be mentioned. The elaboration of both 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 preliminary results of DIONYSUS and the milestones that still lie ahead.

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).

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