



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

DANUBE NAVIGATION





INFRASTRUCTURE	PORTS	INFORMATION SYSTEMS	FLEET	EDUCATION & TRAINING	PROMOTION	FACTS & FIGURES	NEW MARKETS	GRANTS	INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES
Maintain and improve waterway infrastructure	Further develop Danube ports into multimodal logistics centres	Implement and further develop River Information Services (RIS) on the Danube	Modernize the Austrian fleet	Invest in jobs and qualifications	Raise awareness and boost the image of Danube navigation	Disseminate knowledge and improve the fundamental data on Danube navigation	Exploit the Danube waterway's transport potential	Provide supporting resources for the modernisation of Danube navigation	Strengthen European inland navigation
Remove bottlenecks on the Austrian Danube	Draw up a development and investment strategy for the Austrian Danube ports	Implement DoRIS in Austria	Improve the environmental performance of the Danube fleet	Launch a training offensive	Create and implement a coordinated PR-strategy	Collect and process fundamental data on Danube navigation	Provide logistics advice in the field of Danube navigation	Fund flexible and competitive transshipment facilities	Push the development and implementation of the European action plan
Minimize lock closing times due to revision works	Push for the modernization of ports and transshipment sites	Further develop RIS for official and commercial use	Increase the safety of inland navigation	Improve the availability of education	Create a national platform for Danube navigation public relations work	Provide web-based facts and figures about Danube navigation	Stimulate cooperation between inland navigation and road/rail	Fund an environmentally friendly and market orientated Austrian fleet	Contribute to the harmonization of legislative and institutional framework conditions
Ensure adequate waterway maintenance and management	Stimulate industrial settlements along the Austrian Danube	Further develop technologies relevant to RIS	Improve the framework conditions for investment in the fleet	Facilitate the employment of qualified foreign workers	Strengthen Danube navigation national lobbying activities	Introduce Danube navigation to training and education	Support the set up of scheduled liner services on the Danube	Fund the development of scheduled container liner services and new multimodal transport	Improve the image of European inland navigation
Support an integrative improvement of fairway conditions on the entire Danube	Support the further development of South-Eastern European Danube ports	Support the Danube countries in the implementation of RIS	Push innovative plans in the inland navigation sector	Improve framework for labour and social conditions through social dialogue	Implement a Danube navigation image campaign	Construct an information and training centre at the port of Enns	Push the foundation of national inland navigation development agencies in the Danube countries	Fund an innovative use of technology in Danube navigation	Play an active role in the development of the Pan-European Corridor VII



WATERWAY

A RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

The basis for the stronger use of inland navigation is a reliable infrastructure. Through the NAP some improvements have already been achieved: optimized revision of locks, faster waterway maintenance and better information for skippers by using modern measuring systems. The "Integrated River Engineering Project on the Danube to the East of Vienna" is of special importance to the NAP.

Because it involves both improvements to navigation on the Danube and ecological improvements, the project constitutes a genuine win-win situation. After some delays, implementation work will take place in the years to come. Moreover, future challenges have also been taken into account: together with international experts, via donau is examining the effects of climate change on inland navigation.

RIVER INFORMATION SERVICES

MODERNISATION THROUGH TELEMATICS

The Austrian inland navigation information system DoRIS is already in its fifth year of operation. It is continuously being enhanced and makes inland navigation safer and more innovative. Electronic navigational charts, tracking & tracing, lock management and online fairway information are just some of the main elements. The cross-border use of river information services and the international exchange of traffic data in Europe are in preparation, thereby simplifying the integration of inland navigation into multimodal transport chains and the cooperation with rail and road.



INNOVATION AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND FLEET

As a result of research projects and practical testing, new technologies are being developed to make inland navigation even more environmentally sound. Future ship engines powered by liquid gas and other advanced technologies in order to reduce emissions on existing ships are just two examples. Knowledge is gathered and distributed through consultation and an "innovation database". Moreover, a special funding programme will henceforth support companies to invest in new technologies.

KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE DANUBE

Several initiatives have been instigated to raise awareness of the Danube as an ecosystem and waterway. To name just a few: the floating exhibition "donau on tour", an information centre to be opened in 2011 at the port of Enns, an eLearning platform on inland navigation and logistics (www.ines-danube.info) and close cooperation with universities and schools. Online directories on Danube navigation companies (www.blue-pages.at) and ports (www.danubeports.info) as well as detailed annual reports on Danube navigation offer information for the logistics and transport sector and contribute to more transparency.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TEN COUNTRIES – ONE DANUBE

National activities are not the answer to challenges concerning the international Danube river. Thus Austria has initiated common projects in the Danube region dealing with key topics such as sustainable river engineering, waterway management, education, information systems and waste management. In this respect Austria has certainly taken a pioneering role and also wants the development of Danube navigation to become a stronger topic in the other Danube riparian countries.



MOTIVATION

THE ADVANTAGES OF DANUBE NAVIGATION

Environmentally friendly & safe

Transportation of goods by inland navigation causes 70% less CO₂ emission than transportation by road. Furthermore, inland navigation is the safest mode of transport.

Relieving congestion on road and rail

Each year around 10 million tons of goods are carried on the Austrian section of the Danube – causing neither noise nor congestions. This corresponds to the equivalent of a 100 kilometers long convoy of trucks driving daily from Vienna to Linz. Plus: the Danube still has substantial free capacity.

Low costs for infrastructure

The Danube offers a natural infrastructure for inland navigation. Investment costs are therefore low and no further use of land is required.

Cost-effective mode of transport

Ships have the capacity to carry large quantities of goods with a very low energy consumption and little manpower. Subsequently Austrian businesses benefit from extremely competitive transportation tariffs.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR DANUBE NAVIGATION

The Danube Waterway is an integral part of the Austrian transport system and the aim is to increase the use of the Danube for transportation. Therefore the European Union is currently implementing an "Action programme for inland waterway transport (NAIDAES)" and Austria's contribution to this is the "National Action Plan for Danube Navigation (NAP)". This defines 40 measures and is part of the government's programme since 2007. Thus the NAP forms an integral part of the national transport policy.

Measures are currently being undertaken in all key areas; from infrastructure and ports, the fleet and training to international cooperation. Recent years have seen a drive to make inland navigation more innovative, more reliable and even more environmentally sound. via donau and the Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology are working together on the implementation of the National Action Plan for Danube Navigation.

ONLINE – SERVICES

The [National Action Plan](#) and detailed progress reports online:

www.bmvit.gv.at/verkehr/schifffahrt/binnen/aut/nap.html

www.donauschifffahrt.info

The European Action Programme [NAIADES](#) online:

www.naiades.info

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