

Distinguished guests,

Dear Danube SKILLS partners,

It is my greatest honour and privilege to welcome you all at this important event – the launch of Danube SKILLS, a project with most ambitious objectives intended to bring a significant change in a sector of highest interest for us all – the navigation on the Danube and the prosperity of the entire region.

Let me first congratulate the project partners for their great accomplishment! It has been a harsh competition with 576 project proposals and only 54 projects finally approved which makes me deeply confident that you will continue your efforts during the implementation process and make this project a true success story.

I wish to thank our esteemed guests, representatives of the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine, the Danube Commission, the International Sava River Commission, EDINNA and the European Transport Workers' Federation for having joined the project consortium as Associated Strategic Partners. Your presence here today is a testimony of your high interest in our project and of your much appreciated availability to offer the partners your expertise in the successful implementation of project activities and completion of project outputs.

It is also my greatest pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests, representatives of the Romanian Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, various institutions, authorities and organisations activating in the inland navigation sector and on whom we all rely to contribute with their expert opinion to the development of project transnational concepts, tools and strategies.

I consider Danube SKILLS yet another step forward in the efforts paid by both CERONAV and partners of former projects NELI and HINT for the promotion and further development of Danube inland navigation and consolidation of the legal framework governing professional qualifications in this sector.

Dear all, we have great achievements and valuable experience in transnational cooperation which personally make me not only very proud, but also confident that we shall bring this project to a successful completion!

Let me wish the project partners the best of luck in their work and confirm my total availability for every support and assistance they may need from CERONAV.

In closing, I thank you all for being here today, wish you a pleasant stay in Bucharest and kindly invite you to join us at future project events!