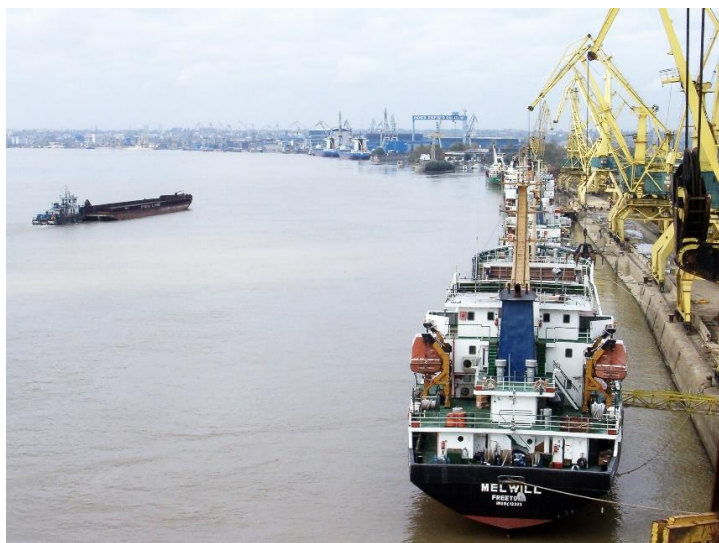


DANUBE PORTS NETWORK – BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF DANUBE PORTS

On 1 January 2017, twenty-three partners from the Danube region officially started the project DAPhNE (Danube Ports Network). Co-funded by the Danube Transnational Programme as one of the 54 approved projects out of 547 initially submitted applications, the project focuses on improving the performance of Danube Ports with the aim to turn them into buzzing economic centres. In a nutshell, DAPhNE touches on topics such as port legislation & funding, port administration & management, port development and port strategy & port network formation.

By exploring these four topics, the consortium will significantly contribute to stepwise close the existing gaps between the 70 Danube ports located along the 2.414 km of the Danube River that deal with poor access infrastructure and superstructure, uncoordinated legal and regulatory frameworks, different ownership and administrative models, reduced private investments in the port area and decreasing human resources for this specific sector.



Source: Metaltrade International SRL

Port administrative processes and business strategies will be upgraded by introducing measures designed for greening ports. The use, provision and distribution of alternative energy will be analysed relying on the best practice examples already available. Furthermore, the needs and expectations of the port employees will be taken into account when revising the port business strategies.

Danube ports will earn their future status as highly advanced logistics centres only by providing their users high quality services and detailed live information on the shipments in progress. To do this there will need to be **innovative IT solutions** applied in the region like a Port IT Community System for the Danube ports similar to the ones already in use in some European maritime and inland ports. The DAPhNE partners will work on the model architecture of such a system and test it out as pilot actions.

For the Danube Ports to be able to provide a similar level of services and to use comparable technologies, an **extensive know-how** built-up and transfer in the region will take place. This will allow the less developed ports to benefit from the lessons learnt by their more advanced counterparts. Public and private entities active in the port sector will work together to facilitate the transition.

The **collaboration** will not only occur on a geographical level, but it will be **inter-sectoral and transnational** in nature.

To help the Danube ports reach their full potential in a balanced manner, the consortium will introduce a model state-aid scheme to facilitate private investments in the region. There will also be recommendations made for improving the legal framework, port processes and port management aspects. Relying on the examples in the Rhine region, a dedicated Green Port Policy for the Danube will be drafted, setting the basis for national programmes and other EU initiatives designed to upgrade the environmental performance of ports as multi-modal hubs.

By June 2019, the ports will have access to the Danube Port Development Strategy and its corresponding Action Plan explaining the steps to be made and the tools and instruments available to boost IWT and transform ports into buzzing economic centres.

Furthermore, the Danube Ports Network Platform will be set-up as a permanent communication channel between all port community members in the area. All interested parties will have access to this platform by electronic subscription and all DAPhNE outputs, deliverables and results will be shared with the members and associated partners.

Thirty months of pioneering work are lying ahead of the DAPhNE consortium (January 2017-June 2019) under the coordination of Pro Danube International as lead partner.

The total budget of the project is **2.985.406,15 Euro**, out of which the ERDF contribution amounts to 2.415.219,77 Euro & the IPA contribution amounts to 122.375,77 Euro.

In case you want to learn more about the project, please contact Pro Danube International:

Raluca Danila (Project Manager): danila@prodanube.eu/ +43 1 890 66 47-23

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