

Newsletter



DEAR READERS,

Eighteen months into project implementation we are happy to share with you some of our results in reaching project ambitious objectives for the Danube region: integration of Danube navigation into modern transport solutions by updating and developing logistics information, tools and services and increasing the institutional capacity of the region for the adoption of the new EU Directive 2017 / 2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation and repealing Council Directives 91/672/EEC and 96/50/EC.

This newsletter is part of our efforts to keep our readers informed on project progress and we would like to kindly invite you to dedicate a few minutes to reading its contents and to also thank you all for following our news on project website, Facebook and Twitter accounts!



Danube SKILLS Project, JUNE, 2018

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

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Danube SKILLS's pioneering efforts pave the way for competency-based training

*One of **Danube SKILLS**'s foremost objectives is to increase the capacity of education and training institutions in the Danube Region by offering them both the tools and a roadmap for the adoption of the EU Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation.*

A typical capacity building process covers the development of a conceptual framework, the establishment of an organizational attitude, the development of a vision and strategy, the development of an organizational structure and the acquisition of skills and resources. **Danube SKILLS** addresses these issues following the basic principle of its actions that first the involved public sector members become trained on new capacities in order to bestow essential skills to external stakeholders during subsequent public sector-based pilot actions.

To this end **Train-the trainer sessions** intended to transfer knowledge of the two transnational model courses: **Safety practices in emergency situations during ship operation** – Operational level and **Human resource management and social responsibility on board** – Management level have been planned and the first Train the trainer session on Safety practices in emergency situations during ship operations was organized in Constanta, in February 2018, the second train the trainer session on **Human resource management and social responsibility on board** being scheduled for September 2018, respectively.





The train-the-trainer session for the model course Safety practices in emergency situations during ship operation was hosted by CER and was organized based on the internal procedures for deployment of safety training courses and on learning materials such as: Model course curriculum, Course compendium, didactical movies, presentations etc. and on the existing practical facilities and equipment already available in CERONAV or also purchased from the project budget.

All these learning materials composing the course package were sent by e-mail to all involved partners and were studied carefully both by the CER trainers as well as by the trainees before attending the train the trainer session for a clear understanding of what is required for the successful implementation of the training course.

The video clip with the most relevant practical training exercises carried out from Monday/Feb. 19 to Wednesday/Feb. 21st 2018, uploaded on InfoDanube website (<http://www.infodanube.ro/>) was visualized by hundreds of people and feedback received, such as following lines sent by a helmsman working on a 135m long passenger vessel on the stretch from Amsterdam to Sf. Gheorghe stands as a testimony of the deep appreciation of partners' efforts and strongly motivates them to pursue with equal dedication their ambitious plans: „ *The video which you have made is showing all the aspects of your training in short and I will admit that I hadn't even thought that anyone will organize something as serious as this.*“

The model course on Safety practices in emergency situations during ship operation was structured in following 5 learning modules:

- *Module 1- Safety of work;*
- *Module 2- Medical first aid;*
- *Module 3- Personal survival techniques;*
- *Module 4- Fire-fighting;*
- *Module 5- Environmental protection.*

The practical training was carried out on the basis of scenarios for practical exercises developed by the CERONAV trainer so that each of the participants in the course acquires the required competences for safe and efficient intervention in emergency situation during ship operation.

Efforts paid by host, CERONAV, for the suitable deployment of this Train the trainer session, by ensuring properly qualified trainers, support staff, class-rooms and practical training facilities, adequate equipment and spaces and teaching aids, paid off the session being a total success.

The Train the trainer session exceeded the highest expectations of both host- CERONAV and trainees - experienced inland navigation experts from all project partners as trainees not only acquired the knowledge and skills needed for the organisation of the future pilot courses in their own countries but also enjoyed each and every moment of the practical training exercises.

Exchange of best practices with EDINNA Association



EDINNA is one the strongest supporters of Danube SKILLS in light of the common goals of the association and the project partnership – harmonization of education and training in inland navigation and raising attractiveness and efficiency of this important transport sector.

Cooperation between project Lead Partner, CERONAV and the association goes back to the early days of EDINNA, to June 2008, when during a Round Table conference of the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR) in Strasbourg, directors and managers of education and training institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective to formalise the EDINNA network. Set up in 2009 EDINNA gathered along the years an impressive amount of 28 members who represent education and training institutions throughout entire Europe and beyond, institutions from Russia, Congo or the United States having joined the organisation in recent years.

Important steps towards harmonization of education, training and certification system in inland navigation have been made since 2009, one of the most important achievements of its members being the work carried out for the development of **STCIN (Standards of Training and Certification in Inland Navigation)**, a document which was used by the European Committee for drawing up common standards in the field of inland navigation as starting point in the development of standards for professional qualifications.

Participation in CESNI working group of experts involved in the development of standards of competences of **EDINNA President, Mr. Rob Van Reem** and **Danube SKILLS project members, Doina Munteanu and Ghiuler Manole** brought keener insight into and deeper knowledge of both the standards themselves and the contents of the **European Directive 2017/2397 on the recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation** which have been used in the project activities related to development of tools and policy strategies supporting the implementation of the Directive.

EDINNA General Assembly organized on 15 and 16 May in Harlingen, the Netherlands was an excellent opportunity to exchange opinions on steps made for the transposition of the EU Directive on both Western Europe and Danube Region countries and to agree on future joint actions, based on exchange of best practices between Western and Eastern Europe, the latter being represented by **Danube SKILLS countries**, so as to expedite the process and ensure adoption of the EU Directive before the deadline (January 2022).





To this end, participants were invited during the workshop organized on May 16th to answer following questions:

- *Are you aware about the steps to establish a new curriculum in your country?*
- *What is the status of activities with regard to the implementation of the Directive in your institute?*
- *Do you have contacts with your competent authorities?*
- *Are there any follow-up actions foreseen?*
- *Do you have any planning how to organise practical training and assessments?*
- *What is needed to get the Directive implemented until 2022 in your institute?*

Explicit details offered by each **EDINNA** member revealed the specific difficulties met in each country and also highlighted possibilities for joining efforts by exchange of best practices between **EDINNA** members and **Danube SKILLS** partners. The report presented by **EDINNA Vice-president, Ovidiu Sorin**

Cupsa on steps already made in Romania for the set-up of a task force integrating members of the **Ministry of Transport of Romania, the Romanian Naval Authority** and representatives of the social partners was received with high interest by participants. The concerns expressed by **Jaap Kwakernaat**, of the Ministry of Transport in the Netherlands, related to the standards for practical examination, for the use of simulators and for the

creation of a database of Union Certificates issued to inland waterway staff until January 2020, the need for recognition tools of Union Certificates, completion of the education programmes in 2019 for the Boatmaster and 2020 respectively for the Boatman, so that graduates can apply for the Union Certificate in 2022 and absence of standards for the practical examination, apply to all education and training institutions and were duly noted by all participants as issues which required their earliest attention.



Exchange of best practices is certainly not a one way street and to this end transfer of best practices from the Danube region to Western Europe and to **CESNI** is ensured by use of the model course Safety practices for emergency situations during ship operation as template for development of competence-based courses by **EDINNA** members and also for the development by **CESNI** of the standards of competence on Basic Safety Training for the position of Deckhand - entry level.

Feedback offered by participants was analyzed by the **EDINNA President** who informed them that he would try to support **EDINNA** members by communicating these issues to **CESNI** and also by completing **CESNI's** work programme for both 2018 and 2019 – 2021 where development of Columns 3 and 4, initiated during **PLATINA I**, was in his opinion, a matter of utmost urgency.

Danube SKILLS promotes transport development on the Danube

In the framework of the EU-funded project, **Danube SKILLS**, experts for transport development from **viadonau** visited Constanta in Romania at the end of February, where the first training session for the preparation of the new “**Danube logistics promotion centres**” was carried out. The training hosted participants from seven different countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Romania. The training is designed to provide fundamental knowledge in order to establish successful promotion centres and to ensure a high level of information services along the entire Danube.

Austria as a model: Aiming at creation of new sustainable transport solutions through more intensive international cooperation, the training focused on transnational know-how exchange. Thus, experts from **viadonau** presented their knowledge and tools with regard to customer-oriented information services to equip the project partners for the setup of successful “Danube logistics promotion centres”. Among several contributions from the participants, well established internet-based tools for inland navigation, such as the Danube Logistics Portal operated by **viadonau** (www.danube-logistics.info) or further websites used for obtaining information, were presented and tested interactively.

In this way, authentic customer inquiries related to transport requests, lock status and current ice conditions were processed by using online-tools and directly applied for a practical implementation of a “**Danube logistics promotion centre.**”

*Conclusion: Due to the customised preparation in the framework of **Danube SKILLS** the project partners are on a good way to position themselves as a central contact point for requests regarding Danube logistics in their countries – for a free and neutral information service along the entire Danube.*



Danube SKILLS promoted during Education Fairs in Serbia

The School for shipping, shipbuilding and hydrobuilding has its own Team for career guidance and counselling that has been active in promoting our own educational profiles and professions as a part of its regular activities. *This year, it has also included the promotion of the Danube Skills project.* Some of the best opportunities for this are Education and Job Fairs, which have been organized in Serbia for years now as a part of professional orientation and career guidance.

This year SBBH has taken part in eight Education Fairs in Belgrade and its wider territory. One of the biggest and most visited of these Fairs is Vocational and Art schools Fair organized by the Secretariat for Education and Child Protection, with the cooperation of the National Employment Service as well as the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia. This was just one of the numerous activities of the Belgrade Employment Council. This year's Fair had the slogan "Po svojoj meri školu izaberi (Choose the right school for you)" and was held on 12th April at the Belgrade Fair.

This Fair is intended for the final-graders of primary schools who face one of the most important life decisions which is to choose the right secondary school. It is the opportunity for the students and their parents to gain information about vocational and art schools, their education profiles, teaching subjects, extra-curricular activities, as well as the possibilities for finding a job in a certain profession. *There were 47 Belgrade vocational and art schools presented at this year's Fair, among them the students and teachers of SBBH with the goal of promoting education profiles, professions and the Danube Skills project.*



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