

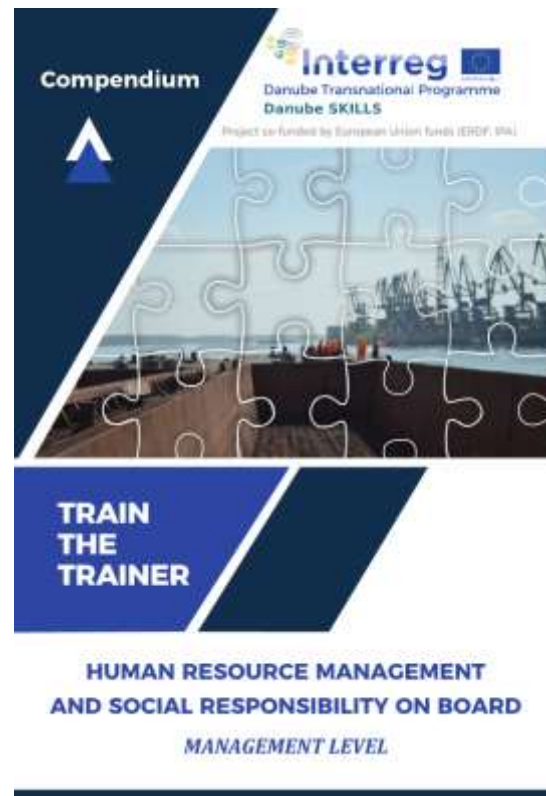
Newsletter

DEAR READERS,

Danube SKILLS project, December 2018

Consistent with our commitment to keep you informed on progress made in **Danube SKILLS** we are happy to share with you several recent project steps paving the way to integration of Danube navigation into modern transport solutions: the train-the-trainer session, dedicated to the model course **Human Resource Management and Social Responsibility on board** and the second training session on the topic “**Markets and country-specific potentials**” and also recent news received from CESNI on adoption of the “Prague standards” and individual partners related to synergies with other ongoing projects.

You are kindly invited to dedicate a few minutes to reading its contents and to follow our future news on project website, Facebook and Twitter account!



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Danube SKILLS efforts towards increased capacity building of the public sector

Danube SKILLS has recently marked a second important milestone – training of project partners on the model course **Human resource management and social responsibility on board - Management level** built on the standards of competences developed by CESNI.

The train-the-trainer session was organized by **CERONAV** on 20 September 2018 in Bratislava, Slovakia and was attended by representatives of partners from all 8 project countries: **RO, AT, DE, SK, HU, BG, HR and RS.**

The train the trainer session was focused mainly on exemplifying and highlighting the practical aspects of human resource management on board of vessels by presenting bad and good examples from the transport activities, so that each of the participants in the course acquired the required competences for human resource management and social responsibility on board. The key of the success of this training session was the very good interaction between trainer and trainees during the course presentations and during the practical applications in order to clarify some aspects or to improve the didactical materials.

All the learning materials composing the course package were sent by e-mail to all involved partners and were studied carefully both by the CERONAV trainer 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 theoretical part of the training session was carried out in the form of individual study, each partner and each participant in this training session receiving the entire course package documents (teaching materials) in due time in order to become familiar with the content of the course and with the competence requirements.

The practical part of training session consisted in case studies, didactical movies presentations and comments, exercises and questionnaires developed by the trainer assigned for this training session. The trainees were involved actively in the practical part of the training session, this part being developed in the form of interactive trainings in order to acquire the competences mentioned in the course curriculum.

Trainers prepared during the Train the trainer session in Bratislava/SK have acquired required training knowledge and abilities and will test them during the pilot training actions which will be organized in each Danube region country.





On 19 September 2018 the 2nd Train-the-trainer session on the subject “**Markets and country-specific potentials**” took place in Bratislava. Representatives of the involved expert staff of the Danube Logistics Promotion Centres were trained by viadonau on the potentials in the Danube corridor,

such as available market analyses and stakeholder management. **VBW (Association for European Inland Navigation and Waterways)**, involved in the project **Danube SKILLS** as associated project partner, informed the present experts on the best-practices from Western-Europe.

At the Bratislava event the pilot testing in all 8 Danube riparian countries started: the national responsible **Danube Logistics Promotion Centres** will run bilateral interviews with potential and existing users of the Danube waterway in the following months. In addition, the involved partners will organise national workshops for a broader audience.

Danube SKILLS synergies

Synergies with Thematic Pole 7 projects

The network of **Danube Logistics Promotion Centres (DLPC)**, an essential outcome of the Danube SKILLS project, requires sufficient data and information related to Danube navigation. These elements (i.e. waterway infrastructure, ports/terminals, vessel operators) are necessary to inform commercial users of the transport sector about Danube navigation and its integration into logistics chains.

In this context, the Danube Logistics Promotion Centres have to identify relevant projects dealing with transport infrastructure and/or transport logistics issues in the Danube corridor and exploit synergies. The specific issue of Danube waterway infrastructure is addressed both in the DTP project “**Danube STREAM**” and in the CEF project “**FAIRway Danube**” and these projects can therefore offer and provide also Danube SKILLS further requested information on fairway conditions, water levels, status of locks etc., needed for

the promotion of Danube navigation towards the commercial users of the transport services. Thus, the mentioned projects may contribute to the effective promotion of Danube navigation.

On regional level, for the Lower Danube riparian countries, potential synergies can be generated with the DTP-project “**DBS Gateway Region**”, which focuses on sea-hinterland transport development, a topic which is of particular interest for Danube Logistics Promotion Centres located there.



The capitalisation activities of **Danube SKILLS** with other project and initiatives cover also exchanges with **EUSDR** (i.e. PA1a, PA 11) and further European projects.

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SBBH ERASMUS project “Practical training on simulators for Maritime Study of Serbia”

From November 11th 2017 till October 1st 2018, the **School for shipping, shipbuilding and hydrobuilding (SBBH)** implemented the project Practical training on simulators for Maritime Study of Serbia in cooperation with the partner school from Croatia- **Maritime School Bakar (MSB)**. The project was funded by ERASMUS+ programme – the 2017 National Call, the first one allowing participation of Serbian schools.

During the project lifetime 10 students (6 boys and 4 girls) of SBBH educational the nautical technician-maritime department and 2 teachers in charge of subject vocational courses, **Irina Kivic** (teacher of ship electronics) and **Zlatko Kendjelic** (teacher of marine navigation), spent time in Maritime school Bakar, in Croatia.

The students took a two-week training on simulators for ARPA radar device and electronic charts (ECDIS), which was the main goal of the project. During their stay, the hosts also organized sailing on the Maritime school Bakar school ship, as well as numerous other cultural and sports activities.

This mobility programme allowed the students to gain and improve new skills necessary for their future professional development, to acquire and develop digital, communicational and organizational competences. They have also adopted their social competences and strengthened the European values through socializing with MSB students during curricular and extra-curricular activities.



According to the principle of “Job-shadowing”, our teachers followed closely the work of colleagues in Maritime school Bakar and they had the opportunity to get to know the new teaching and studying methods using a simulator, learning the ways of harmonizing the curricula with

international conventions, exchanging experience in the areas of ISO standard and education systems both in

Croatia and Serbia, which will eventually lead to their professional development, as well as the development of their vocational, digital and communicational skills.

SBBH is one of the nine Serbian schools which passed the try-out on the first 2017 National Call, for obtaining non-refundable dedicated resources from the ERASMUS+ programme. Benefits brought by this mobility project, include, besides students’ and teachers’ advancements, the improvement of SBBH quality of teaching and learning, in accordance with the standards of education in Serbia and also in agreement with the School Development Plan. In addition to this, the exchange of best practices will be capitalized by SBBH teachers involved in **Danube SKILLS** in the ongoing project activities related to organization of the forthcoming pilot courses in Belgrade, Serbia.



First training courses for future users of ILIS in Serbia

Port Governance Agency organized in mid-October in its premises in Belgrade the first training courses for port operators for the use of the ILIS information system. This software is the result of the participation of the Port Governance Agency in the Danube Skills – project whose main aims include among others building of institutional capacities and strengthening the promotion of Danube navigation.

The **ILIS information system** will collect and process the actual operating data in each port, such as the volume of reloaded goods, the number of passengers, the reloading locations etc. In addition to this, ILIS will enable monitoring of the activities of port and passenger terminal operators with subsequent use of information collected for the analyses required for consolidation of long-term port development plans. Future users of the ILIS information system will enter the requested data in a few easy steps, which will speed up the

process and reduce current administrative procedures.

Organized trainings will provide the professional support to the port and passenger terminal operators, for the successful use of ILIS in day-to-day operations, in order to create equal market conditions for all participants in the waterway transport. In addition to the first training courses organized for port operators in the **Port of Pancevo and the Port of Belgrade**, trainings will be organized for the other port and passenger terminals in Serbia.

The official launch of ILIS is scheduled for the beginning of 2019.

Participation in projects such as Danube Skills improves the development of port activity and represents progress in this area. Development of the Information System ILIS is also another professional and developmental task of the Port Governance Agency in order to simplify the procedures and regulate port activity.



Approval of CESNI Standards on 8 November 2018

The European Committee for drawing up Standards in the field of Inland Navigation (CESNI) met in Prague on Thursday 8 November 2018 and adopted 14 standards governing the details of professional qualifications, based on consistent competencies and medical fitness throughout the European Union and on the Rhine (or the “Prague Standards”). The standards represent the content of the new approach requesting an approved training programme or an examination for all new entrants to the sector before becoming a boatman. As from 2022, it will no longer be possible to qualify as a helmsman solely by experience.

- Standards for medical fitness;
- Standards of competence for the operational level;
- Standards of competence for the management level;
- Standards of competence for passenger navigation experts;
- Standards of competence for sailing on inland waterways with a maritime character;
- Standards of competence for sailing with the aid of radar;
- Standards of competence for liquefied natural gas (LNG) experts;
- Standards for the practical examination for obtaining a specific authorisation for sailing with the aid of radar;
- Standards for the practical examination for obtaining a certificate of qualification as a passenger navigation expert;
- Standards for the practical examination for obtaining a certificate of qualification as a liquefied natural gas (LNG) expert;
- Standards for practical examination for obtaining a certificate of qualification as a boatmaster;
- Standards for the additional module on supervision in the context of the practical examination for obtaining a certificate of qualification as a boatmaster;
- Standards for technical and functional requirements applicable to vessel-handling simulators and radar simulators;
- Standards for the administrative procedure for the approval of vessel-handling simulators and radar simulators.

Upon adoption by the **European Commission** at the latest by 18 January 2020, the standards will come into force in the EU. Within two years from that date they are to be transposed into the Member States’ national law so that they can be introduced on all European Union waterways in January 2022. At the same time, the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (**CCNR**) which had good experience through the recognition of qualifications and even training programmes from countries outside the Rhine basin, will implement identical requirements on the Rhine so that the free movement of inland navigation employees and the safe navigation of all European rivers can benefit from the so-called Prague Standards.

Uniform competence requirements, developed in a nutshell by the **PLATINA project** for boatmasters and boatmen, and intensively discussed with social partners and training institutes, pave the way for more labour mobility in Europe. Approved training programmes and examinations with identical content will be recognised on the entire European Union waterways and the Rhine. Until full implementation in 2022, a great deal of work for international and national regulation bodies, as well as for training institutes which will have to adjust their curricula and training programmes, shall have to be done. Exam commissions will have to change their procedures and prepare for mandatory practical examinations.





In the case of qualifications for deck crew members at operational level (boatmen, able boatmen and helmsmen) and management level (boatmasters) it is the first time that theoretical knowledge and practical skills (competencies) have been consistently defined for all Union waterways and for the Rhine. In the case of boatmasters, the standards also govern and standardise in detail the requirements concerning the authorisation to operate on inland waterways of a maritime character, navigation involving sailing craft using liquefied natural gas as fuel and sailing with the aid of radar. The same applies for passenger navigation experts, who are qualified to take measures in emergency situations on board passenger vessels, and for LNG experts, who have to demonstrate competencies when they are involved in the bunkering procedure of a craft using LNG as fuel.

Appropriate minimum requirements were defined for future mandatory practical examinations for boatmasters, for the qualification to sail with the aid of radar and passenger navigation experts as well as for handling LNG. In the case of the practical examination for boatmasters,

an additional module was agreed for the practical examination of skills at operating level for side-entrants who have not undergone any approved training programme at operational level or who have not yet demonstrated in an examination the competence that a boatman is required to demonstrate.

Consistent technical and functional requirements were defined for simulators approved for the purpose of conducting practical examinations for the boatmaster and for the authorisation to navigate with the aid of radar. These requirements support this new form of internationally recognised practical examination.

Last but not least, for the first time the Committee defined detailed, consistent medical fitness criteria which, in addition to already existing provisions for vision and hearing, also contain guidelines on how permanent or temporary unfitness can be defined on the basis of the internationally recognised list of inland navigation ailments, subject to examination of each individual case.

The so called “Prague Standards” are not binding per se. The CCNR, the European Union and other international organisations or third countries need to apply the standards by integrating them in their respective legal frameworks in order to ensure the recognition of the certificates of qualification issued.

Vojtech Dabrowski, President of the Working Group on Professional Qualifications (CESNI/QP) and host of the CESNI meeting in the premises of the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic, has expressed his satisfaction at having successfully closed his two years’ mandate with the adoption of the 14 standards in the field of professional qualifications.

He also expressed his great confidence in the successful results of the ambitious working programme adopted by CESNI for the next three years (2019-2021) based on the strategic guidelines proposed by the European Commission and the CCNR Secretariat and the intensive consultations with the various inland navigation stakeholders, in particular the approved organisations representing the industry and profession.



Trends, networking, new markets – Danube Business Talks 2018

The Danube: A Stream of Energy. This year's motto of the **Danube Business Talks** on 10 and 11th October in Vienna was versatile on purpose. The main focus of this year's event was on biomass and bioenergy products. In the framework of the third edition of the business platform successfully organised by viadonau, an international expert audience came together to discuss how to make better use of the strengths of the waterway. Project partners of Danube SKILLS took the opportunity to get in touch with representatives from logistics and industry and to promote the Danube Logistics Promotion Centres.

The improvement of cooperation among Danube countries and the willingness of private enterprises to invest in the development of the waterway in recent years increased the importance of the Danube across borders. For a secure future of the river as a sustainably developed and prosperous living and economic space, further impulses at both national and international level are required.



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