

# Newsletter



*Dear readers,*

*the **Danube Cycle Plans project** is coming to an end. It's time to look back at how we managed to push our visions in the past 30 months despite the unexpectedly dramatic circumstances that accompanied this entire period.*

*The last two and a half years have challenged our notions of rock-solid certainties and shown how unpredictable the future can be. We have been subjected to isolation and other strict measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, after many years war has returned to the European continent and brought with it a massive energy crisis. Social peace is threatened by an unprecedented wave of inflation.*

*To make matters worse, climate change also made all the inhabitants of Europe feel with extreme weather that, unfortunately, it really is not just a theory. But this only deepened our belief that cycling as one of the most environmentally friendly modes of transport can help solve the problems that plague Europe today.*

*That is why we welcomed the adoption in May 2021 of the ground-breaking first ever **Pan-European Masterplan for Cycling Promotion**, which was prepared for seven years by the **Partnership Active Mobility under the banner THE PEP** (Transport Health Environment Pan-European Programme).*

Our common vision is as basic as obvious: we want to have **more people cycling in the Danube region**. Project partners, together with stakeholders at the local, national, and international level, have prepared a number of outputs that lead to this goal. Among the most important is the **Danube Cycling Strategy**, which aims to contribute significantly to achieve the objectives defined in the pan-European Master Plan for Cycling Promotion.

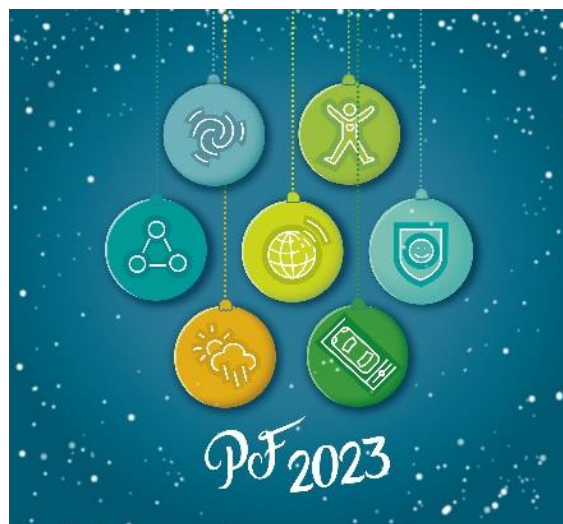
The definition of the **Danube Cycle Route Network** - so called "DanuVelo" - together with the definition of **Infrastructure Standards** and the **Investment Plan** including recommendations for an **extended Cost Benefit Analysis for Transport Infrastructure Projects**, are other concrete outputs of the last 30 months of the Danube Cycle Plans project. Today we know that only 20% of DanuVelo is of a sufficient standard and 5.2 billion EUR is needed for its completion. At the same time, we know that already at current levels, cycling produces global benefits of 150 billion euros per year within the EU-28. More information about the project outputs, the final conference, the investment event and the presentation of the results in the course of the 20th THE PEP Steering Committee meeting can be found in the newsletter attached.

The preparation of all project outputs was based on teamwork and based on regular meetings within **National Cycling Working Groups**, **Stakeholder Inspiration Events** and **National Cycling Conferences**. We want to keep the formats of regular meetings and continue working under the banner of THE PEP Partnership Active Mobility. The partners will also continue to work at the national level, where cycling has been successfully integrated into national policy documents in many cases.

We believe that the set course will continue towards cleaner, healthier, safer and more sustainable and resilient communities.

We wish you a pleasant reading, a peaceful Christmas and a good start to 2023!

Agnes KURZWEIL and Willy RAIMUND  
Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt GmbH)



## THE NEWLY FORMED GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE MODULE COOPERATES WITH THE DANUBE CYCLE PLANS PROJECT



The group was created as one of the concrete outputs of the Pan-European Master Plan for Cycling promotion, which was adopted on May 18, 2021. From the very beginning, UNECE has been working closely with the Danube Cycle Plans project. Martin Eder, National Cycling Officer of Austria from the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, initiator and supporter of the Danube Cycle Plans project, was elected as the Chair of a new group. Gregor Steklačič, National Cycling Coordinator of Slovenia from the Ministry of Infrastructure then became Vice-Chair.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

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## "BIKE TO WORK" PARTICIPANTS AT SLOVAKIA SAVED MORE THAN 550,000 KG OF CO2



Almost 1.9 million kilometers were covered this year by the participants of the Slovakian campaign "Bike to Work". More than a hundred Slovak cities and municipalities participated in the competition. By exchanging the car for a bicycle, whether they went to work on foot or by public transport, they saved more than 550,000 kg of CO2.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

## CYCLING AMBASSADORS FROM AUSTRIA TELL THEIR STORIES



Mayor, graphic designer, architect or municipal representatives of Austria have one thing in common: a passion for cycling. Whether cycling is part of their work or they do it in their leisure time, there is always freedom and joy associated with it. Do it like the freedom of cycling and cycle with us!

[Read more >HERE<](#)

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## BIOKOVO NATURE PARK IN CROATIA HOSTED THE EUROPEAN COORDINATORS OF BICYCLE AND CYCLOTOURISM



For two days, September 5-6, 2022, the Presentation Centre 'Adrion - the heart of the mountain' in the Nature Park Biokovo administrative building was the venue of a partner meeting within the EU project 'Danube Cycle Plans', organized by the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

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## DANUBE CYCLE PLANS PRESENTED AT URBAN MOBILITY DAYS, CZECHIA



More than 1000 transport professionals, policy makers and political representatives came together to Brno, Czechia to discuss ambitious climate targets and how to transform urban mobility within the framework of this year's theme "Moving people and goods more sustainably". Jointly organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, and the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, Urban Mobility Days took place as a hybrid event, with in-person attendance in Brno.

[Read more >HERE<](#)



## NATIONAL CYCLING CONFERENCES TOOK PLACE IN COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE DANUBE CYCLE PLANS PROJECT



During the Danube Cycle Plans project the partners developed different formats for the involvement of crucial stakeholders (civil engineers, majors, etc.). National Cycling Conferences are one of the very powerful tools and outputs of the project at the same time. Details of all conferences are in the national languages for [Austria](#), [Czechia](#), [Serbia](#), [Hungary](#), [Slovenia](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Romania](#) and [Croatia](#).

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## DANUBE CYCLING AMBASSADORS IN SERBIA



Danube Cycling Ambassadors in Serbia were announced as people that are motivated to engage in the process of improving the position of cycling and active mobility in this country. There are six of them in total.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

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## DANUBE CYCLE PLANS PRESENTED AT THE 11TH ANNUAL FORUM OF EUSDR



The 11th EUSDR Annual Forum, jointly organised by the Ukrainian EUSDR Presidency, the former Slovak EUSDR Presidency, the European Commission and the Danube Strategy Point, with the financial support of the Danube Transnational Programme, took place on 19-20 October 2022. The Danube Cycle Plans project was visible at the event, thanks to Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

## BULGARIAN CYCLING AMBASSADORS



Bulgarian Danube Cycling Ambassadors were announced as public figures and politicians supporting cycling as part of their decision-making and personal engagement in green causes.

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## 10 ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE TOGETHER TO PROMOTE CYCLING!



Already at current levels, cycling produces global benefits of 150 billion euros per year within EU-28. To exploit these benefits nine Danube countries cooperating in the Danube Cycle Plans project agreed on the following common vision: more people cycling in the Danube region. This **brochure** is a **call for action** to all relevant stakeholders to engage and implement the necessary actions on the international, national, regional and local level.

[Brochure can be downloaded >HERE<](#)

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## SEVEN CZECH AMBASSADORS TALKING ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION OF URBAN MOBILITY



Seven out of ten Czech inhabitants live there. cities offer prosperity, jobs, services, mor opportunities, on the other hand, they struggle wit ever-increasing traffic problems, emissions, an noise. Is there a way to improve quality of lif through transport and mobility? In the framework c the Danube Cycle Plans, seven Czec personalities talk about their ideas regardin cycling and urban mobility in general.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

## ACTIVE MOBILITY IS OF HIGH IMPORTANCE, CONFIRMED THE EUSDR STEERING GROUP IN SLOVENIA



A Slovenian EUSDR (Danube Region Strategy) presidency was kicked off by a meeting of the Steering Group EUSDR Priority area 1b: To improve mobility and multimodality: road, rail and air transport. The meeting was held on 3rd and 4th November 2022 in Bled, Slovenia. The lecture of the Danube Cycle Plans project which was presented by Gregor Steklačič from the Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure at this high-level event shows that cycling has an important role in transport systems in the Danube Region.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

## FINAL PROJECT CONFERENCE: MINISTRIES OF NINE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE ENDORSED THE OUTPUTS OF THE DANUBE CYCLE PLANS PROJECT



Experts from Austria, Czechia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and Bulgaria have gathered in Prague to present the results of the Danube Cycle Plans project. In terms of this project, dozens of cooperating organisations and experts in transport, health and environment in nine European countries were engaged over the last 2,5 years. The final conference received a support from the ministries of all the participating countries.

[Read more >HERE<](#)





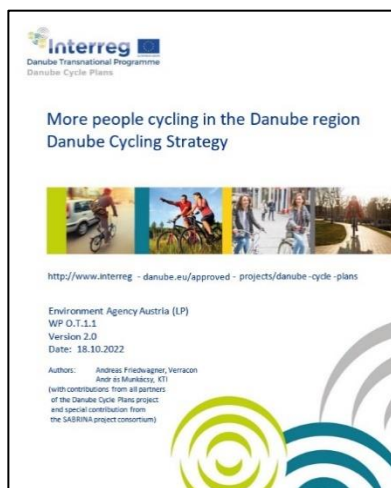
## „INVESTMENT IN CYCLING“ EVENT IN BRUSSELS BROUGHT TOGETHER EXPERTS, EU POLICY OFFICERS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



5,2 billion Euros for a backbone cycle route network in the Danube region. That is what is necessary to provide cyclists of nine Danube countries with adequate infrastructure on the highest level of cycle route networks. There is not enough money for that? Experts from the European Commission, the Committee of Regions and the European Investment Bank/Jaspers claim that there is enough money to build cycling infrastructure. It is just hidden behind the acronyms and the bureaucracy of the various funding schemes that are available at the European level. To make this money better and easier accessible for countries, regions and cities was one of the main requests from the participants of an event targeting at more investments in cycling in the Danube region.

[Read more >HERE<](#)

## DANUBE CYCLING STRATEGY WAS FINISHED



In the **Danube Cycling Strategy (DCS)**, partners of the Danube Cycle Plans project develop a common vision for the promotion of cycling in the Danube region. The vision and the objectives set up in the strategy reflect the identified challenges regarding cycling in the Danube region. The strategy development process brought together the relevant national ministries participating in the project as project partners or associated strategic partners (ASP). It acts as a policy driver at macro-regional level inspiring key actors at national and EU level.

[All the outputs can be downloaded >HERE<](#)

*Photos: Jan Hajšen, archives of individual partners*