

Danube Transnational Programme contribution to a better Danube Region

Programme co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI)

A stream of cooperation

Welcome

More information about the DTP projects included in this publication can be found at:
www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects



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The Danube Transnational Programme was adopted in 2015. 3 years afterwards, it has already brought visible results for the well-being of the whole Danube Region. The Programme, through its projects and project partners has given answers to specific challenges and needs of the region in a unique way. The Danube Transnational Programme is integrating three different sources of funding: ERDF, IPA and ENI. Bringing pre-accession and neighbourhood countries together with Member States is already a big achievement as – together with its complexity – the cooperation of these countries in a structured manner brings not only valuable experience for non-EU countries, but gives a unique opportunity to Member states to cooperate on a macro regional level with countries outside of the EU. This brochure illustrates well how the transnational programme has contributed for a better Danube Region in the field of innovation, social innovation, environment, culture, transport, energy as well as governance.

To understand the importance of Interreg Danube in such a diversely developed region, it is necessary to take a step back and look beyond the project level, which is exactly what this brochure has achieved. This effort voices all the partners and neighbours who have been involved in every step of the programme implementation.

Interreg Danube is recognized within the Region as a platform which connects people, ideas and needs; where nine EU Member and five non-Member States are working together in common areas stemming from research and innovation, welfare and infrastructure to culture and heritage, being an indispensable resource of knowledge and support in every phase, on the national, regional and local level.

It is a great achievement that this programme will continue its journey through future projects defying borders and limitations, offering our citizens better prospects in their own region.

Wishing you many successful projects in the years to come,

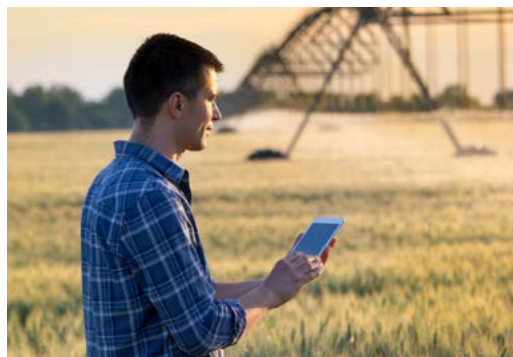


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CREATIVITY
ENTERPRISE
INNOVATION
DESIGN
RESEARCH
TECHNOLOGY



While the European Innovation Scoreboard 2018 shows an *“improving performance and accelerating progress for Europe”*, countries in Eastern Europe are still lagging behind. The Danube Region is therefore characterised by an unbalanced development mainly due to different framework conditions, the availability of human resources and research capacities.

This is why the Danube Transnational Programme has committed itself to supporting the Innovation Union flagship initiative of the EU 2020 Strategy by offering funding possibilities to a wide range of innovation projects of broad relevance for the cooperation area.

Such projects cover eco-innovation, including bio- and circular economy, as well as creating new macro-regional strategies for bio-fuels, eco-construction, eco-packaging, hemp usage, phytopharma products, agro-food industry, forest-based manufacturing or urban recycling¹.

Efforts are also being made to ensure knowledge transfer and access to research infrastructure, such as the new Extreme Light Infrastructure, to promote responsible research and innovation among key decision-makers, or to exchange the utilisation of high-speed computing for business administration processes and to protect intellectual property rights².

Research and innovation are also supported by new cluster policies, trying to link existing local cluster policies to macro-regional ones via S3 priorities³, or facilitating access to different forms of financing, such as crowdfunding or business acceleration mentorship programmes⁴.

¹ Eco-InnDanube, Moveco, Foresda, DanuBioValNet, Made in Danube

² D-STIR, RI2Integrate, ResInfra@DR, KowingIPR, InnoHPC

³ DanubeS3Cluster

⁴ SmartFactoryHub, Crowdstream, Accelerator

Social innovation is of utmost importance for the Danube Region, since it can provide appropriate responses to some of the key challenges brought about by the current societal changes affecting the area.

Massive brain drain⁵, the lack of appropriate entrepreneurial public policies and social services, or the low level of entrepreneurial skills in technological or non-technological areas⁶ are only some of the issues tackled by the projects under the Danube Transnational Programme.

Other projects strive to deliver newer and better innovative services, developed with and for the Danube Region's inhabitants, by facilitating the transfer of new technologies in the process of dementia care, or by supporting the emergence of a new generation of research and innovation managers⁷.

The Programme is also supporting the transfer of research results and innovation activities into the real economy as a way of directly tackling societal changes, and it aims to create a regional ecosystem able to support Young Innovators in their effort of transforming revolutionary ideas into successful ventures⁸.



EXCELLENCE
WELFARE
PARTNERSHIP
SERVICES
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SKILLS

⁵ NewGenerationSkills, Innoschool, Da-Space

⁶ Senses, Digitrans, WomenInBusiness

⁷ Indeed, Excellence-in-ReSTI

⁸ DanubeChance 2.0, Finance4SocialChange

⁹ Danube Energy +



WATER
FLOODS
CLIMATE
ECO-SYSTEM
HABITAT
CONNECTIVITY
BIODIVERSITY

Our rich and diverse environment provides crucial resources and services for the quality of life, but intense human interventions and other risks threaten its fragile system due to over-usage and degradation. The preservation and valorisation of the environment call for integrated and sustainable solutions in the Danube Region.

The Danube and its main tributaries, as a lifeline of the macro-region, are addressed by joint actions to improve water management, flood control and ecological connectivity. To this end, DTP projects are harmonising the flood- and ice forecasting system¹⁰, identifying solutions for floodplain restoration¹¹, managing sediment transport and balance¹², developing a sediment quality monitoring and assessment system¹³, as well as managing the habitat and repopulation of migratory fish species¹⁴, or addressing connectivity issues between protected areas along the Danube corridor¹⁵.

An integrated approach is employed for the Tisa River Basin water management and flood protection¹⁶, while along the Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve corridor, projects improve management practices for protected and adjacent areas¹⁷, ensure the resilience of riparian forests¹⁸, and valorise its nature by developing a joint bike tour package¹⁹. Fragmentation between protected areas along the Sava River and tributaries is tackled by managing invasive alien plant species²⁰, while spatial-environmental measures improve connectivity along the European Green Belt corridor²¹.

Steering land usage to safeguard water resources and reduce flood risk is similarly important²², just like improving drought monitoring and management for the entire Danube Region²³.

In the mountainous regions of the Carpathians, the preservation of wildlife corridors is being addressed²⁴, while other projects trigger economic development for karst bio-regions²⁵, geo-parks²⁶, or Natura 2000 sites²⁷.

¹⁰ DAREFFORT

¹¹ Danube Floodplain

¹² DanubeSediment

¹³ SIMONA

¹⁴ MEASURES

¹⁵ DANUBEparksCONNECTED

¹⁶ JOINTISZA

¹⁷ coop MDD

¹⁸ REFOCuS

¹⁹ AoE Bike Trail

²⁰ SAVA TIES

²¹ D2C

²² CAMARO-D

²³ DriDanube

²⁴ ConnectGREEN

²⁵ ECO KARST

²⁶ Danube GeoTour

²⁷ LENA



The Danube area displays a large variety of cultures and cultural heritage sites both inestimable for humanity and extremely valuable as tourism destinations. However, sustainable methods of exploitation, as well as appropriate site management and preservation are crucial to reach their full potential through tourism.

Hence the joint initiatives that the Danube Transnational Programme is facilitating to harness the cohesive potential of the Art Nouveau cultural heritage in the Danube Region²⁸, to expand existing cultural routes and explore hidden sites with a view to give stories to both visible and invisible cultural heritage²⁹, or to create a “Danube Cultural Promenade” that connects all communities along the river, unifying them into a single tourism destination brand, while offering thematic routes and creating premises for a higher number of visitors and longer sojourns in the region³⁰.

Similar efforts are being put into developing joint approaches for researching and managing complex (pre)historic landscapes and their integration into sustainable tourism³¹, managing the sustainable usage of the First World War cultural heritage by combining it with cultural tourism³², and building on the potential of Jewish cultural heritage of cities³³.

CIVILISATION
VALUES
TRADITIONS
HERITAGE
CUSTOMS
CULTURE

²⁸ ART NOUVEAU

²⁹ CultPlatForm_21

³⁰ DANURb

³¹ Iron Age Danube

³² NETWORLD

³³ REDISCOVER



Transport development in the Danube Region is advancing steadily. Although one may argue that the pace is too slow, some important steps are being made towards improvement. Since transport is a complex sector calling for a multitude of correlated interventions, it couldn't have been different within the DTP.

Thus, concerted actions are currently being taken to improve waterway infrastructure management along the Danube³⁴, to remove administrative barriers presently hindering smooth cargo- and passenger transport on the river³⁵, to turn Danube ports into real multimodal hubs³⁶, to modernise the Danube fleet especially by looking into possible greening technologies³⁷, and to improve the interoperability of maritime and inland waterway transport³⁸.

In terms of land transport and in convergence with current European objectives that target more sustainable transport, DTP projects also employ an integrated approach by proposing practical solutions in the field of e-mobility³⁹ or pedestrian traffic⁴⁰, promoting cycling along touristic routes in the Danube Region⁴¹, developing multimodal transport schemes at functional urban areas level⁴² and multimodal journey planning⁴³.

Key aspects such as road safety⁴⁴, integration of ecological corridors in transport infrastructure planning⁴⁵, as well as the preservation of the Danube eco-system through the reduction of pollution caused by transport activities⁴⁶ are also being addressed by DTP projects.

³⁴ DANUBE STREAM

³⁵ DANTE

³⁶ DAPHNE

³⁷ GRENDDEL

³⁸ DBS Gateway Region

³⁹ eGUTS

⁴⁰ CityWalk

⁴¹ Transdanube.Pearls

⁴² CHESTNUT

⁴³ LinkingDanube

⁴⁴ RADAR

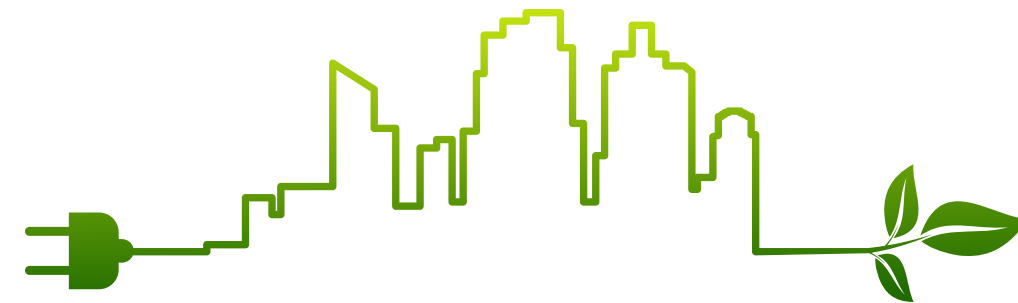
⁴⁵ TRANSGREEN

⁴⁶ GREEN DANUBE

In terms of sustainable energy, the Danube Region still has to unlock its great potential and thus achieve its energy security goals. To this end, smart usage and exploitation of existing sources is essential, a fact which was very well understood by the three projects implemented under the Danube Transnational Programme.

Whether they provide a technological and legislative set-up for cross-spanning energy management of buildings, grids and major city infrastructure⁴⁷, or promote the sustainable utilisation of still largely untapped deep geothermal resources in the heating sector⁴⁸, or exploit the potential for green energy in the form of biomass along the Danube in a sustainable way⁴⁹, they all give a helping hand to increasing energy security and efficiency in the region.

These may seem like little drops in the ocean, but times have constantly shown that small steps can produce huge effects if made in the right direction. By committing themselves to deploying smart distribution systems, integrating renewable sources in the heating sector, or creating a biomass supply chain along the Danube, the projects are evidently making significant steps towards ensuring improved energy efficiency and a more secure energy supply for the benefit of the entire Danube Region.



POWER

EFFICIENCY

BIO-ENERGY

SMART-GRIDS

SUPPLY

RENEWABLES

⁴⁷ 3Smart

⁴⁸ DARLINGe

⁴⁹ ENERGY BARGE



INCLUSIVENESS
MIGRATION
SOCIETY
CHALLENGES
COMPETITIVENESS
GOVERNANCE

Among European macro-regions, the Danube Region is the one most characterised by sharp discrepancies in governance systems and performance. Transnational cooperation is therefore imperative in order to create an environment that facilitates private sector growth and inclusive development, delivers valuable services, and earns the trust and confidence of citizens.

The Danube Transnational Programme supports new cooperation models among public institutions, private sector and civil society to effectively tackle common governance bottlenecks. Financed projects address demographic- and migratory challenges such as brain drain⁵⁰ and labour market integration⁵¹ with holistic, cross-sectorial approaches, and promote participatory urban-rural planning processes⁵². The inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups is put forward⁵³, and the provision of crucial public services for the Danube functional area – such as the harmonisation of educational schemes for inland navigation⁵⁴ – is fostered.

Transnational cooperation offers a unique platform for unleashing untapped potentials of the Danube Region by stimulating governance innovation across borders and creating a critical mass of diverse actors interacting around shared societal challenges, which otherwise would remain subject to isolated and fragmented interventions of limited impact.



⁵⁰ Edu Lab, YOUMIG, Learning by Doing
⁵¹ DRIM
⁵² AgriGo4Cities, ATTRACTIVE DANUBE
⁵³ RARE
⁵⁴ DANUBE SKILLS



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

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