

The project FAIRway Danube is the first implementation phase of the “Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan for the Danube and its navigable tributaries” which has been developed in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

The Master Plan was endorsed by the Danube Ministers of Transport in December 2014. It aims at reaching and ensuring good navigation conditions throughout the year by providing a minimum level of service.

FAIRway Danube is carried out jointly in **6 countries**: Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania. The actions are co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme of the European Union.

During the project term (**July 2015 - June 2020**) FAIRway Danube will significantly increase the knowledge on shallow sections of the Danube waterway, so that the fairway routing can be optimised and national rehabilitation measures drafted. Furthermore, FAIRway Danube prepares for the full deployment of the Master Plan by providing the foundation for supplementary and additional projects.

## Benefits

Up-to-date recordings of the riverbed, combined with precise water level measurements are fundamental tools for navigation, shippers and logistics providers. To be able to measure regularly and to gather comparable data along the Danube, appropriate measuring instruments and ships are purchased. Also additional automatic water level gauges will be installed in the course of FAIRway Danube.

In a joint effort, the project partners will ultimately make the collected data on the waterway available to the waterway users, thus improving the planning accuracy of transports.

- ▶ **Procurement of 5 surveying vessels (SK/HU/HR/RO/BG) and pilot operation until 04/2020**
- ▶ **Installation or modernisation of overall 37 gauging stations and their pilot operation (HR/RO/BG)**
- ▶ **Improvement of the water level forecasts**

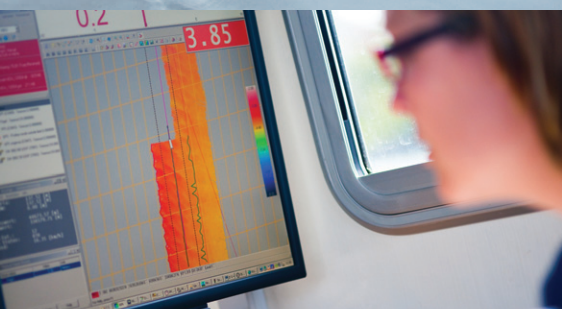
With a high measuring density and continuity FAIRway Danube is fostering the adaptation of the fairway to the current profile of the riverbed, thus improving the fairway conditions for inland navigation.

- ▶ **Procurement of 4 marking vessels (SK/HR/RO/BG) and fairway relocation until 04/2020 in pilot operation**

For more information visit

**[www.fairwaydanube.eu](http://www.fairwaydanube.eu)**

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## Benefits

In the regular updates of the National Action Plans the status of critical locations, hydrological conditions, rehabilitation and maintenance activities as well as operational expenditures are reported in a harmonised way for the whole Danube. Additionally, the updated Action Plans include an outlook on planned activities and the required investment and operational budget for each riparian state.

The analysis of financing gaps is crucial to support improvements. The updates of the National Action Plans serve as important input for the regular Ministerial Meetings and are used by the national administrations for planning the next steps.

- ▶ **National Action Plans as basis for political decision-making**

The purchase of appropriate measuring equipment and vessels as well as a higher measuring density will improve the data on shallow sections and provide an essential basis for the work of the waterway administrations. Pilot operations of new harmonised services for waterway users, the provision of feedback and the contribution to technical specifications or operational concepts are also integral parts of FAIRway Danube. The objective of the pilots is to gain experience for the full deployment of the Master Plan.

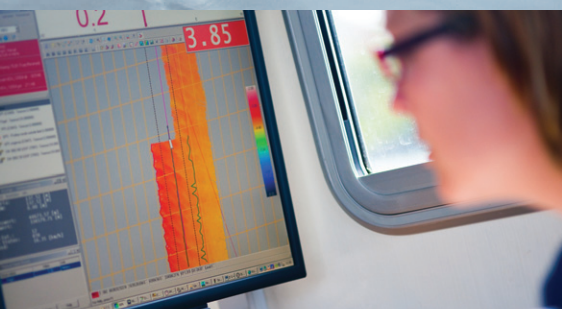
- ▶ **Pilot operations for optimised surveys, denser surveying intervals and strategically placed water level gauges**
- ▶ **Pilot operations of the systematic decision support system**

Furthermore, the National User Fora provide a platform for direct feedback from waterway users and the opportunity to adapt national measures accordingly.

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