



# 2024 Danube Business Talks ‘Green Future’ ‘Setting the course to a Good Navigation Status’

Luca FARKAS – Policy Officer  
European Commission, DG MOVE

Vienna, 15 May 2024

# Context



## European Green Deal:

-> called for decisive action to shift a substantial part of the freight transported by road (currently accounting for 75% of inland freight) to inland navigation and rail -> measures to increase the capacity of inland waterways from 2021.

## Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy:

-> inland waterway transport and short-sea shipping to increase by 25% by 2030 and by 50% by 2050

# NAIADES III Action Plan 2021-2027



2 core objectives

8 policy flagships

35 action plan measures

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

NAIADES III:

Boosting future-proof European inland waterway transport

ANNEX: ACTION PLAN

SHIFTING MORE FREIGHT TRANSPORT TO INLAND WATERWAYS	
1. Continued support for innovative infrastructure and deployment through Horizon Europe and CEF	From 2021
2. Revision of the TEN-T Regulation – inland waterway transport requirements and role of coordinators	2021
3. Deployment of cross-disciplinary digital information and operation systems for water- and waterway management through CEF	From 2022
4. Transport crisis contingency plan(s)	2022
Review of the regulatory framework for intermodal transport, including the Combined Transport Directive	2022
Development of digital information systems on informing users about the carbon footprint of delivery choices	2023
Access legislation	2022
Technical requirements for inland vessels	2022
IN INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT	
Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters Partnership/Green Hydrogen partnership	From 2021
Zero-emission inland vessels	From 2021
the elaboration of an EU energy index for inland waterways vessels	2022
in the context of Directive (EU) 2016/1629 for vessels on EU waterways	2023
Promoting low carbon/zero-emission vessels.	2025
possible inclusion of IWT and possible block port	From 2021 to 2023
Environmental protection and energy, as well as the port and innovation	2021
Technical Guidance document on climate proofing on infrastructure in the period 2021-2027	2021
Study to support the greening of inland ports	2021
18. Revision of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive and a roll-out plan with funding opportunities and requirements	2021
19. Request the European Standardisation Organisation for harmonised standards for alternative fuels infrastructure for inland waterways and ports	2021
20. Continuous support for innovative and alternative fuels infrastructure and deployment through Horizon Europe and CEF	From 2021
21. An assessment of the needs of waste reception infrastructure and and degassing facilities	2024
22. Revision of the Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1926 on multimodal travel information services with inclusion of inland waterway transport	2022

EN 16 EN

# Good progress so far in policy implementation of NAIADES III 1/2

## Progress (extract)

### NAIADES III

#### GREENING

- Study to support the greening of inland ports
- Deployment of zero-emission inland vessels and support for innovative and alternative fuels infrastructure for ports and vessels - support through CEF and Horizon Europe
- Preparation of harmonised standards for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure for ports and IWT
- Elaboration of an EU energy index methodology for assessing carbon intensity levels of inland waterways vessels - through H2020 Platina III project

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

- Revision of the TEN-T Regulation (proposal adopted, public. expected Q2 2024)
- Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation adopted, preparation of the EU standards for Alternative Fuel Infrastructure
- Preparation of the EU standards for Good Navigation Status – next step

# Good progress so far in policy implementation of NAIADES III 2/2

## Progress (extract)

### NAIADES III

#### CREW

- Implementation Directive 2017/2397 on professional qualifications incl. ECDB
- Propose measures for EU crewing requirements and digital tools - ongoing
- Development of standards for skills for alternative fuels' operations and for environment-friendly and efficient vessel operation (eco navigation)

#### OTHER

- Evaluation of a set of legislation related to market access in inland navigation transport - ongoing
- Evaluation of the Directive (EU) 2016/1629 on technical requirements for inland vessels and derogations for zero-emission vessels - ongoing
- Revision of the Directive 2005/44/EC on harmonised River Information Services (EC proposal launched - discussions in the Council ongoing)
- Review of the regulatory framework for intermodal transport, including the Combined Transport Directive

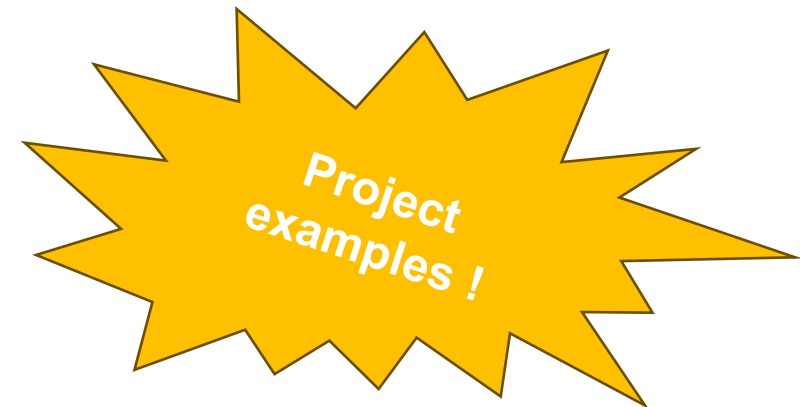
# Financing...

## ... through a variety of EU funding instruments

- CEF II
- Horizon Europe
- AFIF (Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Facility) – next ddl 24 Sep 2024
- The LIFE Programme
- European Regional Development Fund / Cohesion Fund
- Invest EU (incl. the Sustainable Infrastructure Window)
- Recover and Resilience Fund (RRF)

## ... on the Danube (CEF 1 & 2)

- 37\* projects (of which 3 finished)
- 416 m EUR\* co-funding for IWT



\*Source: Cinea, end of April 2024

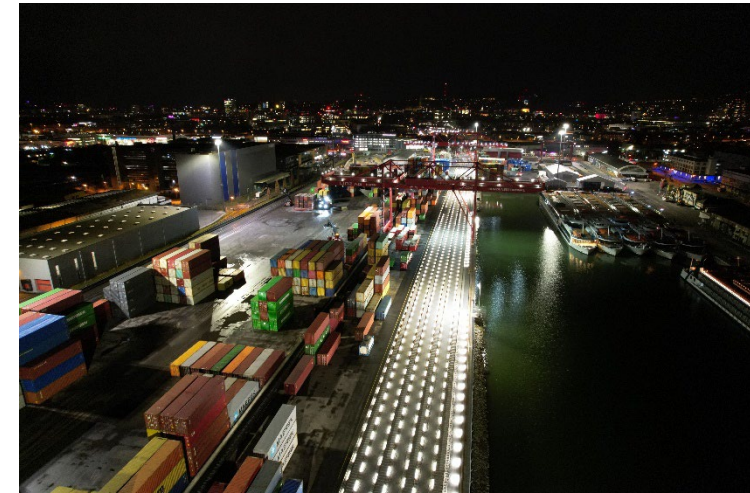


# Port of Linz (AT)



## Works for the period 2013 - 2017:

- Expansion and modernization of the port
- Expansion of the Container Terminal
- Expansion of the marshalling yard connection to the high-performance network
- Flood protection (forthcoming)







# Port of Vienna (AT)



Land reclamation and reduction of the port basin through embankment at port Freudenau (2012-2015)



Harbour Gate for flood protection at port Albern (2019-2023)





# Shore power for cruise vessels in Upper and Lower Austria (AT)



- Upgrade of 17 existing inland waterway mooring locations
- Development and installation of onshore power supply (OPS) for cruise vessels, including relevant infrastructure

(2021-2024)



# Modernisation of the fairway marking (HU)



Investment in:

- 3 marking vessels
- 4 inspection vessels
- 339 buoys & landside navigation signs

(2015-2020)



# Upgrade of Gabčíkovo locks (SK)

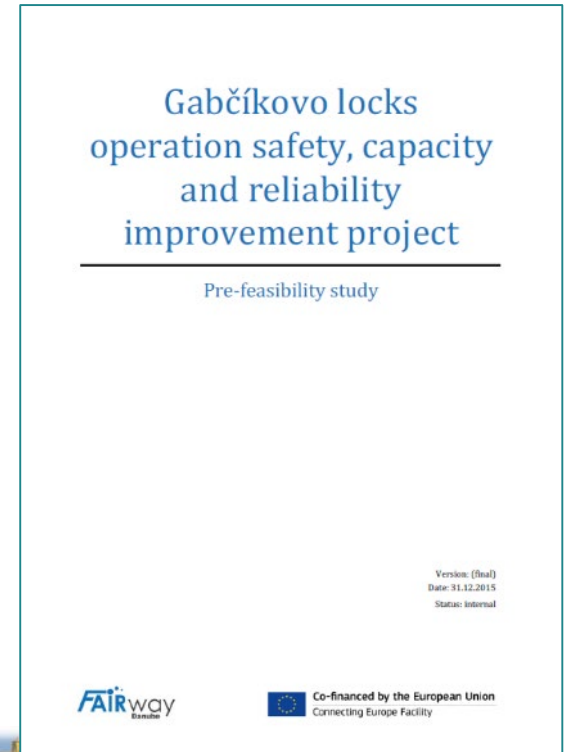
Location: Slovakia Period: 2015-2023

CEF Contribution: 122 965 250 €

From feasibility study to implementation of upgrade of the **lock Gabčíkovo**

Necessity of upgrade for the following reasons:

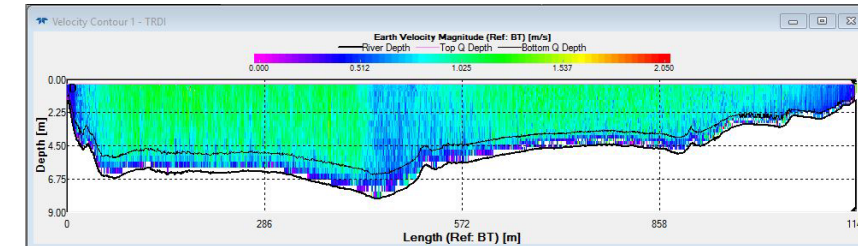
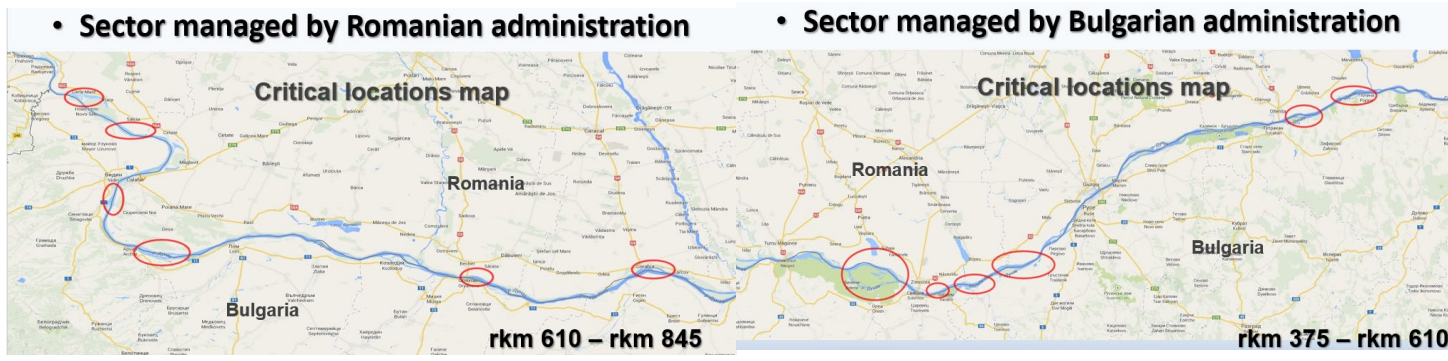
- Limited water transport
- Poor filling and emptying hydraulic system
- Poorly sealed subsoil and expansion joints



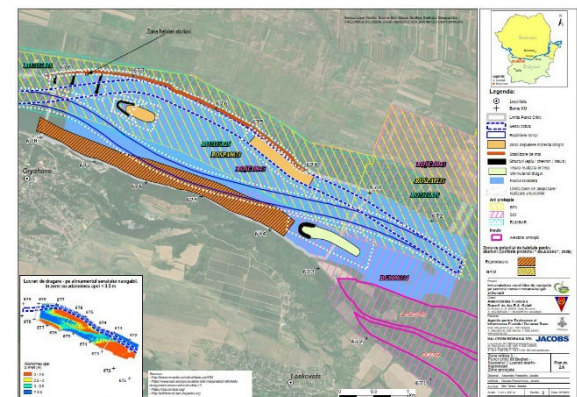
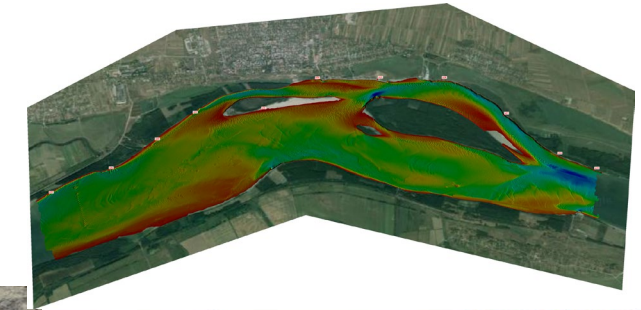


# Fast Danube (RO-BG)

Danube common sector, between Romania & Bulgaria



- 2 field trip study (bathymetry, hydrodynamics, sediment, LIDAR, geotechnical drilling)
- Modeling 1 D and 2D, navigation simulation modeling
- Technical solutions, different scenario;
- Migratory fish habitat assessment;
- Natura 2000 Forum;
- EIA and AA procedure, Romania and Bulgaria;
- Public debates;



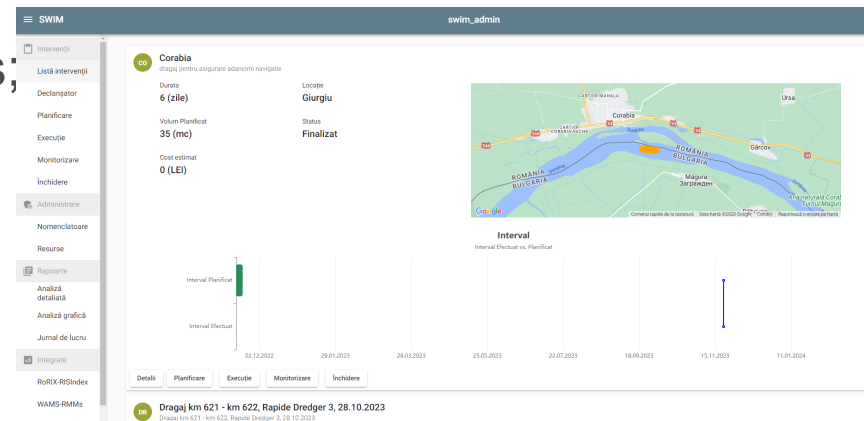


# SWIM – SMART Waterway Integrated Management (RO)



## Results:

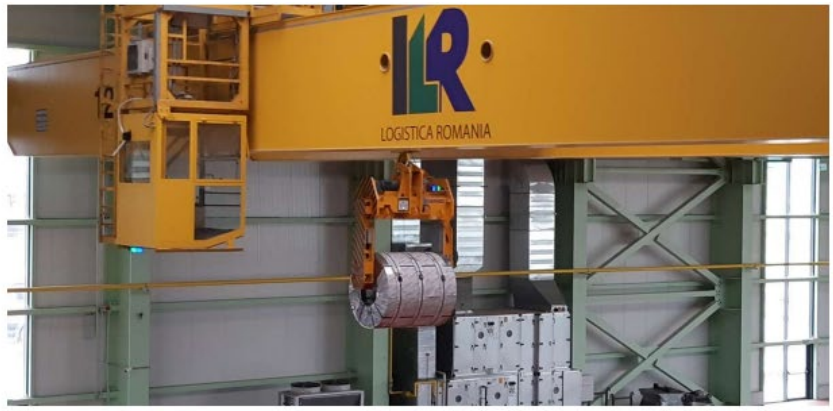
- Integrated Concept to ensure a Good Navigation Status;
- Technical equipment to carry out capital dredging works and enhanced safety of navigation;
  - Dredge, pontoon, technical assistance vessel, pipeline, 2 hopper barges
- Buoys AIS AtoNs;







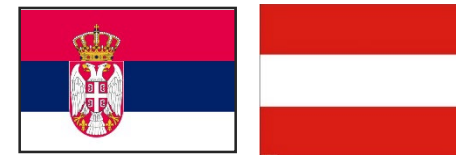
# Trimodal Logistics Terminal in Giurgiu (RO)



2012-2019



# Iron Gate 1 & 2 (RS + AT)



## Upgrade of Iron Gate I

Location: Austria & Serbia

CEF Contribution: 11 404 000 €

Period: 2015-2023



## Upgrade of Iron Gate II - FAIRway works!:

Location: Austria & Serbia

CEF Contribution: 17.030.458€

Period: 2022-2024





# EU Funding & Tenders Portal

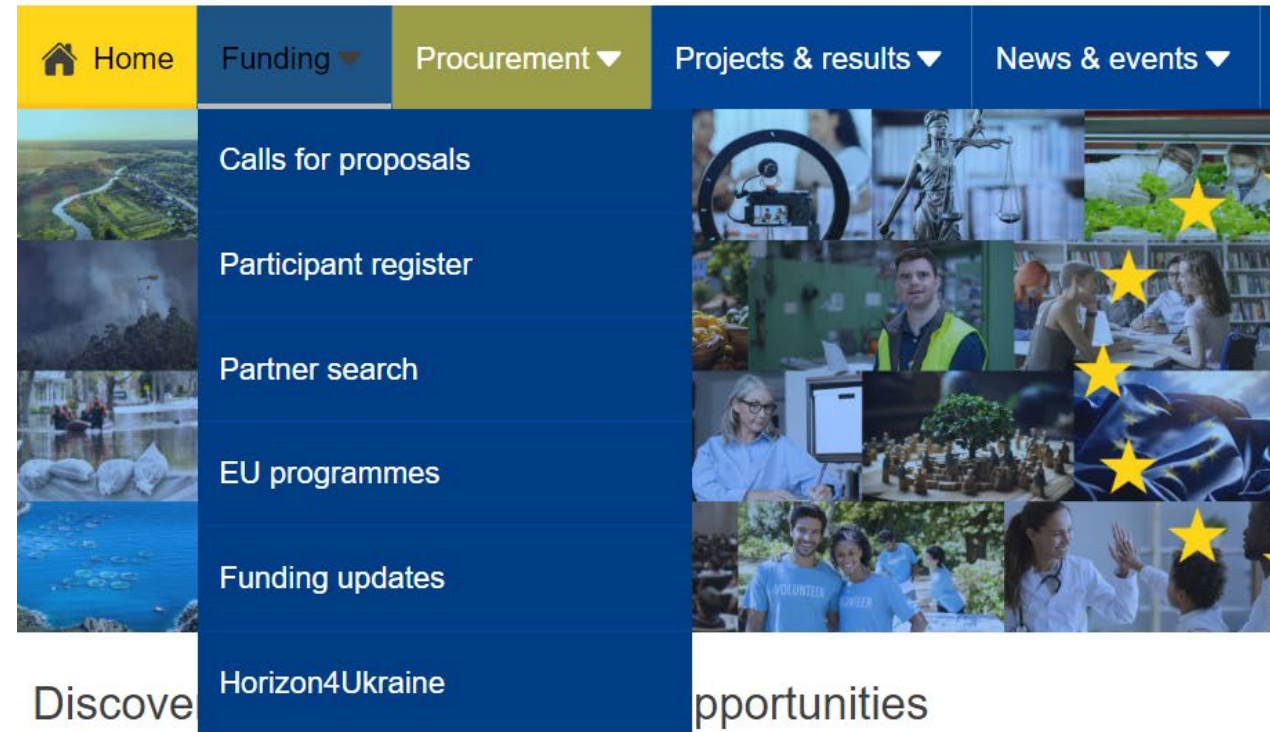


## New features:

- Fresh look and feel with updated landing pages and simplified interfaces for user-friendliness;
- Improved filtering options to navigate calls for tenders more efficiently;
- Advanced search capabilities and semantic search powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology;

Video:

[The revamped Funding & Tenders Portal: what's new?](#)



Find out how to participate by following these key steps.

Find calls for proposals

Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals



# Thank you



Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Project photos: ViaDonau