

Commitment on the cooperation between the Danube waterway administrations in the field of Danube waterway management

Preamble

Considering the high importance of cooperation in the development of the trans-national transport axis Danube with regard to the consolidation of this Corridor into the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T),

Recognising the challenges identified in the Strategy of the European Union for the Danube Region (EUSDR) in the field of Danube waterway transport (Priority Area 1A – To improve mobility and multimodality: inland waterways),

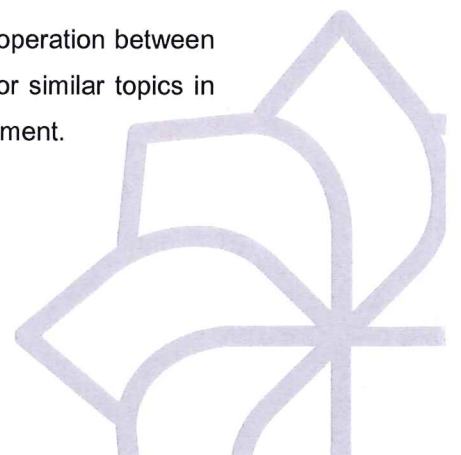
Having in mind the opportunities of the forthcoming European funding period 2014-2020, especially the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for co-financing the development of the Trans-European Transport Network, and the Danube Transnational Programme for supporting the implementation of the Strategy of the European Union for the Danube Region,

Taking into consideration the existing cooperation network between the Danube waterway administrations, which has been especially strengthened since 2009 by means of the two European projects "NEWADA" and "NEWADA duo", the Danube waterway administrations of the countries Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania, hereafter referred to as "Parties", have concluded on the following Cooperation Agreement:

Article I

Purpose of the Agreement

The aim of this Agreement is to enhance and to further develop the cooperation between the Danube waterway administrations based on their responsibilities for similar topics in their respective countries in the field of waterway infrastructure management.



Article II

Field of Cooperation

The main field of cooperation is related to waterway infrastructure management, i.e. cooperation between the waterway administrations, especially in their core activities bathymetric riverbed surveying, maintenance works, signalling of the fairway and provision of information on the current status of the waterway infrastructure taking into account European legislation and standards.

Article III

Types of Cooperation

The Parties are prepared to make available to each other existing information relevant to the management and operation of the Danube waterway infrastructure. The cooperation between the Parties under this Agreement will include:

- Regular exchange of information via dedicated meetings between the managing directors of the waterway administrations ("Board of Directors" meetings)
- Regular provision and exchange of fairway-related data (e.g. on the common FIS Portal or via to-be-developed interfaces of a Danube-wide Waterway Maintenance Management System – WMMS)
- Exchange of experts in the field of waterway management, especially within the scope of dedicated European projects
- Education and training activities for joint projects and initiatives
- Implementation of cooperative projects (as e.g. the EU co-funded projects "NEWADA" or "NEWADA duo")
- Exchange of experience and knowledge to promote infrastructure project/improve infrastructure

Article IV

Organisation

The coordination of projects and activities developed on the basis of the present Agreement shall take place in periodic meetings between the Parties represented by the

managing directors of the waterway administrations. This "Board of Directors" shall meet at least once a year.

The costs incurred for the attendance of managing directors and experts of waterway administrations at these meetings shall be entirely covered by the respective waterway administration, if possible by using EU co-funding within the scope of future cooperative projects in the Danube region.

Article V





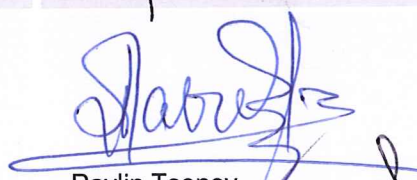

Closing Remarks

This Agreement will enter into force from the date of signature, is based on a voluntary commitment of the participants, and will remain effective on a continuing basis.

Each Party may terminate its participation in this Agreement by giving written notice to the other parties. The termination of the Agreement will take effect from the date of receipt of the written notice by the other parties.

Signed in Zagreb on 05.11.2014 on 10 original documents in English language.

Danube waterway administrations of

COUNTRY	NAME OF ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
Austria	via donau - Österreichische Wasserstraßen-Gesellschaft mbH	 Hans-Peter Hasenbichler
Hungary	Rádiós Segélyhívó és Infokommunikációs Országos Egyesület	 Csaba Kovács
Croatia	Agencija za vodne putove	 Zrinko Zvocak
Serbia	Direkcija za vodne puteve	 Ljubiša Mihajlović
Bulgaria	Izpalnitelna agentsia "Prouchvane i poddarzhane na reka Dunav"	 Pavlin Tsonev
Romania	Administratia Fluviala a Dunarii de Jos R.A. GALATI	 Valerica Anghel

COUNTRY	NAME OF ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
Slovakia	Slovenský vodohospodársky podnik, štátny podnik	 Marián Supek
Hungary	Országos Vízügyi Főigazgatóság	 Balázs Somlyódy
Romania	Compania Nationala Administratia Canalelor Navigabile S.A.	 Daniel Georgescu

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