

Preparing FAIRway 2 works in the Rhine-Danube corridor

MINUTES (final)

Stakeholders' Forum Meeting 07 (SHFM07)

Date	31.01.2024
Time	09:00 – 12:00
Place	Online meeting (<i>GoTo Meeting</i>)
Participants	See List of Participants (LoP)
For the minutes	Bojana Nedovic, Ljubisa Mihailovic

The presentations are available for download on the [Stakeholders' Forum website](#).

Welcome note

Ljubisa Mihailovic welcomed all to the 7th Stakeholder Forum meeting for the Project "Preparing FAIRway 2 Works in the Rhine-Danube Corridor." He introduced himself as a representative of the Directorate for Inland Waterways. The Serbian Ministry is a project partner responsible for the organising and coordinating the Stakeholder Forum in the project. He pointed out that the meeting was online this time, as the previous in-person meeting had been held in Croatia.

Georg Rast, the chairperson of this Forum meeting (subcontracted by the project coordinator, viadonau) informed about technicalities of the online meeting, reminded that the meeting will be recorded for the purposed of drafting the minutes and introduced shortly the agenda.

Monitoring of the common Croatian/Serbian Danube section

Lidija Hubalek (MMPI), in her capacity as the Contracting Authority for monitoring activities, gave a general introduction to the monitoring activities and responded to the feedback provided in writing by the Forum members to the Intermediate Monitoring Reports (sent to SHF on 4.1.2024).

She explained that the monitoring's scope is constrained by the project objectives outlined in the Grant Agreement. Being funded under the CEF transport, the project ("study") focuses on navigation conditions along the common HR-RS section, while taking into account the environmental considerations. During the formulation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for monitoring activities, the national nature protection authority (Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development) provided input regarding the scope of biodiversity components monitoring. MMPI will liaise with the relevant ministry to explain why certain components were not included in the project's scope.

Ms Hubalek furthermore confirmed that upon commencement of modelling activities, all monitoring data (incl. biodiversity and navigational) will be made available to Serbian experts. Some data has already been delivered, and the analysis of this data will be presented later on by Mr Mihajlovic.

Lastly, she gave a background information on piezometer installations. Croatian Waters has developed a network of piezometers for monitoring of groundwater quantity and chemical condition in areas adjoining the Danube. The project's aim is to install three additional piezometers to complement the existing network. This also ensures that MMPI will gain improved quantitative insights into the status of associated underground water bodies, facilitating any future measures or initiatives.

Monitoring of parameters important for waterway maintenance

[Presenters: *Igor Tadić (Hidroing)*, *Slaven Marasović (VPB)*. See 2024-01-31_PPT_SHFM07_1.TechnicalParameters_web.pdf]

The status of the following monitoring activities was presented:

- Inventory of river regulation infrastructure (Igor Tadić)

→ for details see presentation slides #3-5

The inventory (field work) of river regulation infrastructure on the common HR-RS Danube section was carried out in Oct 2023, during the low water period when the structures were visible. The digitalisation of the collected data is on-going. A total of 99 on the right bank and 93 objects on the left bank were identified (note: final data was made available after the meeting). Geodetic surveys were carried out for these structures (i.e. special and elevation recording of the structure crown). Field surveys gathered geometry data, geo-located photos (pictures from several sides), and assessed the object state and functionality of objects (as recommended during the last SHFM), including the damage extent (where applicable).

All collected data are being integrated into newly set GIS environment. A visualisation example is offered on the slide #5. The completion is expected by Feb 2024.

- Riverbed measurement of cross sections of Danube river (Slaven Marasović)

→ for details see presentation slides #6-9

Hydrographic measurements of the riverbed (single-beam) were conducted from May-Aug 2023 along 1374 control profiles at 100 meters intervals, covering a total length of ~140km. Due to unfavourable conditions, surveying was either interrupted in May or conducted only partially (30km) in June. Ultimately, the entire common section was successfully completed in August 2023. Challenges such as obstacles in the river and mobile data connection loss were also encountered, preventing in some cases safe approaches to the riverbank or hindering GNSS receiver corrections from satellites.

The collected data underwent thorough cleaning to eliminate various sources of noise (waves, mud, obstacles, branches, fallen trees, river traffic). Subsequently, the data was projected onto cross-section lines in preparation for generating a 3D model—an essential outcome of this activity. Processed cross-sections data is available in three different projections (text files). This data has been shared with the Serbian beneficiary for quality assessment and comparison with older available measurements (see PPT of *Ljubisa Mihajlovic. 2024-01-31_PPT_SHFM07_3.Modelling_web*).

A second set of measurements, coupled with subsequent data processing, is planned for Feb-Jun 2024, to observe the dynamics of the changes in the riverbed.

- Monitoring and analysis of flow, velocity and sediment transport (Igor Tadić)

→ for details see presentation slides #10-13

Three sets of measurement campaigns were conducted at different water levels and across three different sites (in line with ToR):

- for low water levels (<100m) in May 2023
- for medium water levels (100-400m) in June 2023
- for high water levels (>400m) in December 2023

The hydrological analysis was undertaken prior fieldwork for all selected locations. Flow and velocity measurements were done in Batina, Vukovar and Ilok. Sites for sediment transport were divided by the Drava confluence (inflow of sediment from the Drava) into: (a) upstream at Batina, (b) the Drava confluence, and (c) downstream at Ilok.

Water level data from four waterway gauges along the Danube were showcased on slide #10, marking also the low & high water levels. The overview of results was presented on the slide #12, with more details in the Annex 2 (sent for the review on 4.1.2024 to the Forum).

Detailed findings for Batina was presented on the slide #13. A more comprehensive analysis of other locations is available in the (abovementioned) Annex 2. The recorded data indicates a general decline in values, with water levels experiencing a sharper decrease attributed to the incising effect. The simulation for Batina revealed an incising effect of -2.1 cm per annum, consistent with a sediment study by BOKU, presented to the project consortium in May 2023.

To summarise the findings:

- Flow and velocity data exhibited a fairly consistent distribution, considering the cross-section geometry (appr. 1 m/s of integrated velocity, & > 1,5 m/s in the main current)
- Measured flows (discharge) ranged from 1.350 to 5.400 m³/s, accounting for various hydrological events and locations.
- Bedload sediment constituted 5-7% of the total sediment
- Granulometric curve is fairly consistent, reducing in size downstream.

The fieldwork, laboratory analysis, and report compilation were concluded, with the raw data delivered to the Contracting Authority.

- Piezometer installation (Igor Tadić)

→ for details see presentation slides #14

The piezometers were installed at three sites (Batina, Aljmas, Ilok), adjacent to the Danube (within 100 m) & 15m deep. The measurement equipment was purchased and is installed in Jan 2024.

The primary objective is to collect continuous data (underground water level and temperature), facilitating correlation with future hydrographic surveys and measurements. The data collection process for underground water levels and temperature involves the use of automatic meters, equipped with loggers and internal memory to accurately measure and record both underground water levels and temperature.

See further explanations regarding piezometers by Lidija Hubalek at the beginning of the minutes.

Questions & Answers:

Q (Kerstin Böck / Arno Mohl, WWF Austria): Riverbed deepening (incision) has an impact on floodplains. Will the information about the incision considered in the modelling of variants for measures that will be modelled later in the project? Is the riverbed incision simulated for all sections? data is collected and analysed on all water gauging stations

A (Igor Tadić): The simulation for incision (incising effect) was done for all locations; only Batina was presented as an example during the Forum meeting. The simulation was done based on the water level data from the gauge stations at the selected locations. The findings will be made available also for Serbian colleagues and modelling experts.

Inventory of biodiversity components – preliminary results

[Presenters: *Matija Kresonja, Ana Đanić, Ivona Žiža (Oikon), Tibor Mikuška (HDZPP)*. See 2024-01-31_PPT_SHFM07_2.Biodiversity Monitoring_web.pdf]

Current status of the biodiversity monitoring together with preliminary results and the establishment and integration of the monitoring data into the geoinformation system (GIS) were presented.

All collected data (fish, habitat, bird, benthos/ macrozoobenthic communities) will be integrated into the final "Catalogue of Biodiversity Components on the Joint Croatian-Serbian Sector of the Danube River" (Annex 9 as draft, sent to the Forum on 04 Jan 2024). Furthermore, the data will be spatially displayed through an interactive map in a newly created GIS. This GIS/map will feature comprehensive photo documentation, including sampling sites, species, equipment, and more (as applicable).

- Fish fauna inventory (*Matija Kresonja*)

→ for details see presentation slides #3-25

Fieldwork, conducted between Jul-Oct 2023, involved day- and night-time electrofishing across 17 critical sections from Batina to Ilok on the common HR-RS Danube. Depending on the length of each critical section, one to four transects of 500 meters length were defined; resulting in 43 daytime and 13 night-time (constituting 30% of the daytime as defined in the ToR) electrofishing transects, and 5 daytime transects on the Serbian side (→ see slide #4 for a map).

Preliminary findings from the electrofishing fieldwork were presented during the meeting (→ see slides #13-24). Day and night electrofishing resulted in the sampling of ~ 37 fish species, totalling 5,500 individuals. Common bleak, asp, and carp were prevalent, with zander abundant during night electrofishing. Targeted Natura 2000 species, including asp, European bitterling, and cactus roach, were successfully sampled. As expected, the confluence of rivers and backwaters exhibited the highest fish diversity and abundance, while flat Danube sections with eroded shores, greater depth, and turbidity showed lower counts.

Data analysis is currently underway, alongside with other activities, such as winter habitat sonar monitoring (Dec 2023-Feb 2024) and electrified bottom trawl (electrified dredge) sampling (Feb-Mar 2024).

- Habitat inventory (*Ana Đanić*)

→ for details see presentation slides #26-45

Fieldwork encompassed floodplains on the left and right banks of the Danube, located within the 17 critical sections and associated flood areas along the common HR-RS Danube. The objective was the mapping of following Natura 2000 target habitats types:

- Habitats occurring on standing water bodies → 3130 *Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters* & 3150 *Natural eutrophic lakes*
- Habitat occurring along shallow muddy banks of Danube → 3270 *Rivers with muddy banks*
- Alluvial meadows with natural flooding regime → 6440 *Alluvial meadows of river valleys*
- Forest habitat → 91E0 *Alluvial forests*

The field survey commenced later in the vegetation season, following the stabilization of low water levels. As for further insights to the findings, on the right side of the Danube, 223 plant species were identified across 342 sampling locations. The fieldwork findings were presented in more detail during the meeting (→ see slides #30-44). In addition to other observations, the fieldwork identified numerous invasive species, indicating an impact on the structure of the habitat type.

Data collected on the right side (HR) is currently being processed and integrated into the contractor's database. A similar process will be applied to data collected on the left side (RS). The final habitat map, planned at a 1:5000 scale, will be incorporated into the GIS database.

- Bird fauna inventory (*Tibor Mikuška*)

→ for details see presentation slides #46-69

All planned 2023 fieldwork has been completed. The inventory of bird fauna related to sand islands, river banks, marshes and swamps will be repeated in summer 2024. The monitoring of wintering birds and spring migration is being repeated in the first half of 2024.

Covering 17 critical sections, the fieldwork targeted *sand bar and sand island breeding species, riverbank nesting species, marshland breeding birds*, as well as *passage and wintering bird fauna*. Results presented during the SHF meeting in Sep 2023, revealed the adverse effects of an unusually rainy season and high water levels on bird breeding success. Between Sep-Nov 2023, fall migration was inventoried to map the key resting and feeding areas along the river. Unusually warm weather caused that migrants from northern Europe, including ducks, geese and divers, arrived in the monitored areas mid-Nov 2023.

Details on methodology, results and take-away messages are available on slides #48 (covering white-tailed eagle → #48-50, black kite → #51-53, sand martin → #54-57, kingfisher #58-61, little ringed plover → #62-65, colonial water birds – herons, cormorants, terns → #66-69). The following take-aways were presented (not limited to...):

- larger active floodplain supports higher number of breeding pairs ← white-tailed eagle
- old alluvial forests near wet meadows are critical for protection of species ← black kite
- remaining steep banks critical for survival of species in the area ← sand martin
- no net loss of steep banks in order to secure breeding population ← kingfisher
- very few remaining sand bars/islands are vital for the survival and conservation of species ← little ringed plover
- navigation projects must not cause river bed deepening or disconnection between river and its floodplain ← colonial water birds

The monitoring results can be enhanced by incorporating data from the nesting season of 2024. Furthermore, historical data from fieldworks, allows for the assessment of trends. This ensures that the quality of the inventory results is not anticipated to diminish.

- River benthos types inventory (*Ana Danić*)

→ for details see presentation slides #70-85

Survey of river macroinvertebrate community structure in the 17 critical sections of Danube river occurred in two phases (following the favourable hydrological situation): (1) Jun 2023 covered upstream sections from Hungary to Aljmaš at 7 locations; and (2) end Jul 2023 focused on downstream sections from Erdut to Ilok at 10 locations. Sampling methodology adhered to national guidelines and encompassed various data, incl. water levels, water temperature, physical & chemical parameters gathered (oxygen, pH, conductivity), photos.

Laboratory analyses commenced in Sep 2023, involving the isolation of animal from the samples, and subsequent taxonomic determination. Ongoing laboratory analyses are progressing according to the project timeline, with the isolation of animals set to conclude in the first quarter of 2024. Determination of taxa will follow, striving for the lowest possible taxa level and, at a minimum, to the obligatory taxa level as per the “*Methodology of sampling...*”.

Preliminary observations indicate that several alien species, belonging to different benthic taxa groups have widespread distribution in common Croatian Serbian Danube section (slide#84).

- Establishment and integration of the monitoring data into GIS (*Ivona Žiža*)

→ for details see presentation slides #86-91

The local server was set up and configured (5TB disk; 128GB RAM; Intel Xeon processors). User requirements were analysed, prototype developed. Currently, the data from the monitoring are consolidated, systemised and will be imported into the new GIS environment.

Questions & Answers:

Environment Agency Austria & WWF Austria: [all monitoring activities] Stakeholders recommend incorporating conclusions and assessment, similar (and where applicable extended) to those done in case of birds fauna, regarding the anticipated implications on biodiversity (conservation/mitigation measures) resulting from potential (non-) infrastructural navigational measures. Furthermore, such potential effects may be linked to the webGIS with biodiversity data.

Q (Kerstin Böck, WWF Austria): [fish fauna inventory] The data on population structure is missing. Will this be included?

A (Matija Kresonja, Oikon): Population structure (fish fauna) will be included once all data from field research is gathered. Electrified benthic trawl data is still missing, but it is planned to be done by the end of March 2024. Thus, once all data from ichthyological research is gathered, the population structure will be presented.

Q (Daniel Trauner, Environment Agency Austria): [fish fauna inventory] Why are fish sampled at different locations during the daytime and night-time electrofishing?

A (Matija Kresonja, Oikon): Daytime and night-time electrofishing were conducted at the same locations during two distinct campaigns. Overlaying these areas (transects) on the map reveals the shared coverage for both types of electrofishing. Depending on the length of each critical section, one to four transects of 500 meters length were defined; resulting in 43 daytime and 13 night-time (constituting 30% of the daytime as defined in the ToR) electrofishing transects, and 5 daytime transects on the Serbian side. The selection of night-time electrofishing locations aimed to encompass critical sections and areas with a higher abundance of fish species.

Q (Kerstin Böck & Arno Mohl, WWF Austria): Floodplains and their connectivity to the river play a crucial role in maintaining the biodiversity. Therefore, an inventory of floodplains and their biodiversity is imperative. Will a map of habitat connectivity of floodplains with the Danube be produced?

A (Ana Đanić, OIKON): The final map will display floodplain habitats in project areas as defined by the project assignment. Producing the habitat connectivity map is beyond the scope of the project assignment. Nevertheless, the team anticipates that such habitat map will be helpful to the future users in planning the works along the Danube waterway.

Q (Kerstin Böck, WWF Austria): Will future potential (non-)infrastructural navigation and maintenance measures also be incorporated into the new webGIS database along with the results of the biodiversity monitoring?

A (Lidija Hubalek, MMPI): Similar information is included in the national Waterway Management System (WAMS). Lidija has offered to organize a presentation showcasing the functionalities of the national WAMS. Kerstin Böck (WWF Austria) expressed the interest in the demonstration of the Croatian national WAMS.

Q (Daniel Trauner, Environment Agency Austria): Why specific (91F0 type) habitat is not included in the project scope, it is of importance.

A (Ana Đanić Oikon): Not part of ToR.

Habitat types are defined in the project assignment (Terms of Reference) and the list of habitat types that are targeted by this project is defined by the Client (MPPI) in cooperation with Croatian state institution(s) competent in the field of nature protection. We (“contracted experts”) assume the 91F0 type is not in focus of the project because it is not relevant in the project area, according to previous data and existing habitat maps, it does not appear along 17 critical project locations. Regarding Natura 2000, it is listed as a target habitat type only for Kopački rit area (HR2000394 Kopački rit), but outside of the area defined as our project area. During field survey on HR side we haven’t recorded stands belonging to this habitat type.

Q (Alexander Zinke, Environment Agency Austria): *[habitat inventory] Is there also a habitat inventory conducted on the Danube islands, particularly in the lower sectors, and if not, why?*

A (Ana Đanić, Oikon): Habitat on the Danube islands will be included in habitat map if they are part of one of the 17 critical sections.

Q (Alexander Zinke, Environment Agency Austria): *Where is the server with the new webGIS and the monitoring data located?*

A (Lidija Hubalek): The server is located in Vukovar (Croatia), in the premises of the Regional office for Inland waterways (MMPI).

Q (Kerstin Böck, WWF Austria): *[cross-cutting question] How & when the monitoring data will feed into the modelling activities?*

A (Lidija Hubalek): Modelling activities are delayed, still waiting for the contract. The modelling will be carried out by experts to be contracted by the Serbian beneficiary. Some of the data is already available to the Serbian beneficiary (see PPT on Modelling by Ljubisa Mihajlovic). The biodiversity data will be made available to the modelling experts as soon as the modelling contract is signed.

Modelling & Multi-Criteria Analysis of the common Danube section

[Presenter: Ljubisa Mihajlovic, MGSI. See 2024-01-31_PPT_SHFM07_3.Modelling_web.pdf]

Mr Mihajlovic explained that the procurement process for the modelling activities, expected to be concluded by Nov 2023, is facing delays. The modelling activities are to be financed by the EIB loan, which adds the complexity to the procurement. The administrative delays in the procurement process require shortening the modelling activity timeline from 12 to 9 months in order to meet the project deadlines. The project has recently requested an extension until 31/12/2024.

Mr Mihajlovic presented a detailed analysis of the hydrographic data collected during the monitoring activities (led by Croatia) and comparison with the previous years. The entire number of profiles obtained by the Croatian side, their position, density, and average number of points were presented. In addition, the level of alignment between the shapes of these profiles and the shapes of the identical profiles from previous years was investigated. The analysis was carried out on a morphologically stable sector of the river, and it was concluded that the new surveys are fully compatible with the old surveys, and thus can be used for modelling, with the exception of some deviations on a number of profiles, which will be eliminated in the coming weeks in collaboration with the Croatian side.

Questions & Answers:

Q (Kerstin Böck, WWF Austria): *Kerstin Böck emphasized the importance of incorporating the "zero variant" in the modelling activities. Additionally, she highlighted the need to consider restoration/conservation measures, sediment transport, and incision in the future modelling activities.*

A (G.Rast): The 'zero-variant' is the status-quo including historical conditions as measured in the cross-sections incl. velocity data and these data are used for the 3D-image and the finite-element network as basis for the 1D/2D model. The model has to be calibrated and verified on this basis and would represent the zero-option (but not the zero-option future which would represent the real benchmark).

The sediment transport cannot be modelled, only the morphological changes. But a mass balance for different options could be produced providing indications how the riverbed reacts on different options and whether these might influence the water table, e.g. increase or decrease is possible.

External presentations

[Presenter: Kerstin Böck, WWF Austria. See 2024-01-31_PPT_SHFM07_4.Project RESTORE for MDD_Boeck WWFAustria.pdf]

The new LIFE project “LIFE RESTORE for MDD - Preserving and restoring floodplain forest habitats along the Mura-Drava-Danube rivers”, coordinated by the WWF Austria focuses on conservation and restoration of the largest contiguous riparian forest system in the Danube River Basin. For 5 years, 17 partners from Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovenia and Serbia will jointly work against the degradation of the priority floodplain forest habitat type HT 91E0* and HT 91F0, by restoring and improving 2,472 ha of floodplains, 45,230 m of water bodies, and by mobilising 966,000 m³ of sediments through river dynamics. The project area is a 2,071.6 km² large river corridor connecting 17 Natura 2000 sites and further protected areas in the UNESCO 5-country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube. The sites line up as a continuous string along 700 km of the three rivers. Having in mind strong synergies between aforementioned Project and "Preparing FAIRway 2 Works in the Rhine-Danube Corridor" colleague K. Böck was invited to give more insight into the planned project.

Questions & Answers:

Q (Lucia Karpatyova): If I understood the presentation correctly, especially concerning the Monostor area, the activities are progressing, currently undergoing the process of acquiring permits. Are there additional data that can be provided for consideration in future modelling activities?

A (Kerstin Böck, WWF Austria): The documentation is still in the process of being elaborated, and for some planned interventions, it is not yet available. The cooperation between RESTORE and Preparing FW2 is welcomed.

Q: (Arno Mohl) Will the riverbed incision (Bjelobrdska Bara restoration) result in a potential decrease in the water level?

A (Igor Tadić. Due to technical issues, answer is shared in minutes): Having in mind involvement in the preparation of the proposed measure (Bjelobrdska bara restoration) there are some technical insight. This measure is continuation of the measure of Aljmaski Rit revitalisation (Phase 3, with works on 2 previous phases completed), which will enable full connectivity of the side channel to Drava. Entirety of the side channel (entry and exit point) is situated alongside Drava river meaning, water-balance wise, effect on the Danube shall be minimal or non-existent.

Q (Arno Mohl): Is Drava in this section also suffering from an incising effect that leads to the potential problems for floodplains?

A (Igor Tadić. Due to technical issues, answer is shared in minutes): Although Drava is largely experiencing deepening of the riverbed, this is not the case in the vicinity of the confluence (location of this measure is ~ 5 rkm from the confluence). Effect of the (much more powerful) Danube is such that there is deposition of the Drava material (sediment), starting from the confluence and proceeding upstream (roughly 10-15 km). Therefore, continuous reallocation of the material at or near the confluence is required to enable navigation along Drava (up to Osijek). This is supported by extensive monitoring activities at this particular section of the Drava; also by a study/analysis of the Danube done by BOKU, Vienna presented to the project consortium in May of 2023 (reference dana from this presentation: Bijelo Brdo location with value of surplus 0,3 cm/ann. of changed riverbed morphology).

Next steps & AOB

[Presenters: Lidija Hubalek (MMPI), Ljubisa Mihajlovic (MGSI/Plovput). See 2024-01-31_PPT_SHFM07_5.Start-NextSteps.pdf]

- Next steps in monitoring and modelling activities

→ for details see presentation slides #6

Ms Hubalek gave an overview of the next steps for monitoring activities: update on ongoing monitoring activities during next Stakeholder Forum in April 2024, draft version of the Final monitoring report in June of 2024 and final version in the September 2024.

Mr Mihajlović explained that the signing of contract for modelling is expected end March 2024, 1st interim report (1D modelling) in June 2024, 2nd interim (MCA parameters) in September 2024 and final report (2D modelling) in December 2024.

- Stakeholder Forum meetings planning for 2024

→ for details see presentation slides #7

Discussion regarding the proposed date, 10 July, for a potential on-site meeting in Serbia took place. The Stakeholders expressed the interest to consider different date (due to the approaching summer/holiday season). Preliminary it was agreed that most participating Stakeholders would be available on 3 July. The project management will consider this in the planning & come up with the new proposal. The suggested dates could vary depending on the signature of the Modelling Contract.

- Gantt diagram (2024) for monitoring and modelling activities

→ for details see presentation slides #8

The Gantt diagram (2024) for monitoring and modelling activities visualizes everything that has already been said in the previous part regarding the Next steps in monitoring and modelling activities.

- Chairperson change

→ for details see presentation slides #9

Ljubisa Mihajlovic informed the Forum about the change of the chairperson as of the next meeting. He stated that the next SHF meeting would be chaired Ms Marina Ilic, in accordance with the Serbian side's commitment throughout the project implementation. Her CV will be emailed to SHF members, and Marina Ilic was given the opportunity to briefly introduce herself, her prior work, and experiences. Ms. Ilic greeted the participants of the forum and thanked for the opportunity to chair such meetings in the coming period, as well as praised the previous organization and established mechanisms.

Upcoming Meetings

A discussion took place regarding the upcoming July meeting. The majority expressed a preference for scheduling the meeting before 10th July, given the approaching holiday season. **Wednesday, 3 July 2024**, was viewed positively as a potential date. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of receiving relevant documentation in advance to ensure an efficient meeting. The management team will carefully consider these preferences and come up with the date.

The July meeting is likely to take place on-site in Serbia.

Meeting	Date / time	Place
Stakeholder Forum Meeting #8	End April 2024	Online
Stakeholder Forum Meeting #9	Beginning July 2024	On-site; ~Serbia
Stakeholder Forum Meeting #10	Beginning September 2024	Online/ <u>On-site</u>
Stakeholder Forum Meeting #11	End October 2024	Online/ <u>On-site</u>
Stakeholder Forum Meeting #12	Mid December 2024	<u>Online</u> / <u>On-site</u>

*underlined is a preferred form (to be still decided)

Attachments

- List of participants (separate file)
- Presentations (Stakeholder Forum website: <https://www.viadonau.org/en/company/project-database/preparing-fairway-2-works-in-the-rhine-danube-corridor-study/stakeholder-forum>)