The Working Community of the Danube Regions

Hainburg, October 16, 2018
MMag. Daniela Stampfl-Walch MIM
Working Community of the Danube regions

The organization of the Danube regions and cities
PA 10 of the EUSDR: Institutional capacity and cooperation

Aim: Promotion of cooperation between its members for development of Danube area to serve the interests of its inhabitants and to foster peaceful cooperation in Europe.

- Support projects
- Represent interests of the regional level in the Danube Regions
- Develop initiatives, activities and events

General Secretariat in Lower Austria
Since 1990: a long tradition
Who we are?

- Representative of the regions / interregional network
- Representative of the regional level in the national EUSDR
- Impulse generator for the Danube Region Strategy
- Think tank for Danube area activities
- Network for actors in the Danube region
- Service of the Province of Lower Austria for the Danube region
General Sekretariat at the Office of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government

✓ Administrative preparation of meetings
✓ Coordination and documentation
✓ Moderation and networking
✓ Website: www.argedonau.at

+ 2018/2019: Lower Austria has the presidency
Working Community 2018+

- Streamline its bodies and reorient its working groups
- Stronger involvement of the interregional level
- Reach more participation + Public relations

- March 13, 2018: kick-off workshop, Lower Austria
- Sept. 5-6, 2018: black sea summit, Ukraine
- Oct. 16, 2018: follow-up workshop, Hainburg, Lower Austria
- Oct. 17-19, 2018: annual forum at the EUSDR, Bulgaria
- Nov. 29, 2018: ownership & leadership in the Danube Regions, Krems, Lower Austria
Working Community 2018+

Current Issues:

- Purpose why

- Topics covered by working groups:
  - Culture, science & education
  - Economy, tourism, transport
  - Sustainability, energy & environment
  - Cities & urban issues
  - New ones: health

- Institutional aspects

- Cooperation with other institutions

- Projects with high visibility

- Reach more participation + Public relations
Peace project
Umbrella brand for activities in the Danube regions
Platform for exchange and projects in the Danube regions

Keep going
Working Community 2018+

Topics covered by working groups:

- Culture, science & education
- Economy, tourism, transport
- Sustainability, energy & environment
- Cities & urban issues
- Further topics
Topics covered by working groups:

- Culture, science & education
Topics covered by working groups:

- Economy, tourism, transport
MEETING OF THE WORKING COMMUNITY OF THE DANUBE REGIONS - „CROSS-BORDER (CITY) REGIONS“

Development perspectives Danube & Tourism

Georg Steiner, Tourism Director Linz

Hainburg an der Donau, 15th of October 2018
## Danube Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>topic</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cycling Tourism</strong></td>
<td>• Has developed positively over the last years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Danube Cruise Tourism</strong></td>
<td>• Cross-Border narratives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Different programmes and modules on land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culture &amp; Nature Tourism</strong></td>
<td>• Appointed topics across different countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Travel time: 5-10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Development of narratives, topics and dramaturgy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Working Group „The Danube – Street of Kings and Emperors“
www.strassederkaiserundkoenige.com

Following the course of the Danube, the Route of Emperors and Kings running from the medieval city of Regensburg through Passau, Linz and Vienna and onto Bratislava and the metropolis of Budapest connects cultural centres, historical treasures and landscapes of international importance. Ten tourism organizations and shipping companies are participating in the international working group “The Danube – Route of Emperors and Kings” to benefit their shared European heritage and to allow contemporary travellers to discover the vestiges of historical figures such as Marcus Aurelius, Frederick Barbarossa, the Habsburgs and others.
Donau Manual Online
www.schiffsanlegestellen.at

Online Manual for shipping companies and cruise ship operators in the Danube region Upper Austria.

Content:
• Ship moorings on the Danube Upper Austria
• Linz as a starting point for cruises group trips
• Service & Logistics
Danube Topics

- Geschicchte
  - Zeitgeschichte
  - Kaiser und Könige

- Ökonomie
  - Tourismus
  - Häfen
  - Wasserkraft
  - Frachtschiffe

- Kulinarik
  - Gastronomie

- Ökologie
  - Naturparks
  - Renaturierung
  - Flora/Fauna
  - Natur

- Kultur
  - Traditionen
  - Festivals
  - Klöster/Religionen
  - Gastlichkeit
  - Genießen
  - Architektur
  - Bildhauerei

- Wellness
  - Gesundheit

- Und und und
  - - Wellness
  - - Gesundheit
Current situation of cooperation along the Danube

Danube Structures National & Transnational
Which partners / institutions have cooperation potential?

- Cultural institutions (museums, monasteries, castles, cities)
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- European Capitals of Culture (former and future)
- Nature facilities (predicated landscapes - to national park)
- Danube infrastructure (port facilities / operators)
- Carrier of the waterway (Water and Shipping Authority, via donau)
Limiting factors in the field of Danube cooperation

- There are many organizations that work side by side.
- Many organizations lack the human and financial resources for project implementation.
- In general, there is little operative power in the individual structures for transnational fields of action.
A vision for the Danube region:

The Danube as a leading Smart Destination Region in the world.
What does Smart Destination mean - 4 pillars?

Accessibility
- Public transport infrastructure
- Accessibility
- Barrier-free

Sustainability
All partner should profit from tourism (guests, hotels, culture, POIs, etc.)

Cultural Heritage and Creativity
- Establish relationships
- Valorization

Digitalisation
- Information
- Presentation
- Media Art
  (e.g. Apps, Virtual Reality, 3D Animations of Hidden Places)
Our idea:

Which organizational / structural prerequisites are needed for this?

Danube-Hub

especially for the western Danube countries
(Germany - Hungary)
Danube-Hub
Development of a transnational organizational structure

The task of a Danube Network Unit is to continue to promote the objectives of the Danube Region Strategy and to position the Danube more strongly in terms of international use for culture, cruise and cycle tourism.
Danube-Hub

Tasks

- Initiation and development of products and projects along the Danube
- Bringing together and maintaining the network of all personalities, companies and institutions interested in the development of the Danube
- Tourist and cultural valorisation of the Danube in individual tourism
- Coordination of project results from EU projects, national and international tourism activities
- Initiation / Coordination transnational education, guides
- Cross-border narratives
- Cooperation projects with national and transnational organizations (UNWTO, European Travel Commission etc.) on the subject of Danube
Aim/Vision

- The Danube as an international cultural and nature route
- The Danube as a Smart Destination
- New narratives for the Danube
- The Danube as partner country of the ITB in Berlin as well as the Frankfurt Book Fair
- Capitalization of all previous projects within the framework of the EU Danube Region Strategy in terms of tourist use

*We need Coopetition! We invite you.*
Tasks of the Working Community of the Danube Regions

1. Coordinate, handle and connect existing structures along the Danube
2. Inputs for further EU programmes – What does the tourism industry need?
3. Capitalization of all previous projects within the framework of the EU Danube Region Strategy in terms of tourist use
Further tasks

- **Foundation of a consortium / association** for coordination, service and project activities for the transnational development of the Danube in the sense of a Smart Region Danube

- **Conference TravelCulture** on 8th of November, 2018 in Linz [www.travelculture.at](http://www.travelculture.at)

- **Danube Workshop** at the TravelCulture Conference on 9th of November, 2018 in Linz (08:30 -12: 30). Registration at [https://www.reglist24.com/danube](https://www.reglist24.com/danube)
"[...] and the Danube rushed in between - and it was all, all good!"

Joseph von Eichendorff
Topics covered by working groups:

- Sustainability, energy & environment
WORKING COMMUNITY of the DANUBE REGIONS

Working Group “Sustainability, Energy, Environment”

Soil Protection and Sustainable Land Use

Hainburg, October 16, 2018

DI Christian Steiner & DI Dr. Erwin Szlezak,
NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde/Fachabteilung Landentwicklung
Our Soil in the Danube Region

2015-2020: our Soil in the Danube Region
EU Strategy for the Danube Region (Priority 6: Soil),
EU Interreg (e.g. Humus, Soil Map, Green Infrastructure)

till 2014
crossborder
4 ETC-Projekts:
SONDAR (3x) and SOPRO

from 2007
Lower Austrian Soil-Campaign
“Our Soil”
eNu: Service, Municipalities, www.naturland-noe.at

WST3, GS5, NÖGUS, LAK, Komunitas
THE FOUR PILLARS

- Connecting the Region
  - Mobility and multimodality
  - Sustainable energy
  - Culture and tourism, People to People
- Protecting the Environment
  - Water quality
  - Environmental risks
  - Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil quality
- Building Prosperity
  - Knowledge society
  - Competitiveness
  - People and skills
- Strengthening the Region
  - Institutional capacity and cooperation
  - Security

11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator

Actions

- PA 6  SONDAR  Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region
- PA 6, 7, 8, 9  SOPRO  Soziale Produktion für die Umwelt
- PA 6, 7, 8, 9  SONDAR+  Sustainable Strategy Network in the Danube Region
- PA 9  BeFoRe  Beteiligungsprozesse mit Fokus Globale Verantwortung

Projects
Recommendation "soil protection & sustainable land use"

1. The Working Group “Sustainability” within the ARGE Donauländer continues its cooperation with Priority Area 6 “Biodiversity, Landscape, Air and Soil” of the EU Strategy of the Danube Region. In this context on-going and future projects are embedded and disseminated by the Task Force SONDAR = Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region.

Recommendation "soil protection & sustainable land use"

2. The Working Community of the Danube Regions acts jointly with existing networks such as SONDAR, ELSA (European Land and Soil Alliance, CASEE (Network der Life Science Universities), Technische Universität Wien to distribute best practice examples in the Danube Region.

Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer arbeitet mit bestehenden Netzwerken wie SONDAR, ELSA European Land and Soil Alliance (Europäisches Bodenbündnis), CASEE (Netzwerk der Life Science Universitäten), Technische Universität Wien zur Verbreitung von best practice-Beispielen im Donauraum eng zusammen.
Recommendation "soil protection & sustainable land use"

3. 

The Working Community of the Danube Regions turns special attention to the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations.

Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer legt besonderes Augenmerk auf die Umsetzung der von den Vereinten Nationen beschlossenen 17 Nachhaltigkeitsziele (Sustainable Development Goals).
Recommendation "soil protection & sustainable land use"

Work Program 2018, review


- Interreg-Project AT-CZ „Climate Green – Adaptation to climate change by means of Green Infrastructure“, 2018 – 2020

- Annual Conference of the European Land and Soil Alliance ELSA „Soil Protection under pressure“, Stuttgart, June 20/21, 2018

- Interreg-Project AT-CZ “INTEKO Technological Innovation of Compost Application and Soil Protection”, May 9, 2018, Retz/AT

- Technische Universität Wien: Summer School in Dealu Frumos, Transylvania/Romania, July 9-13, 2018

EUSDR Annual Forum Sofia, October 17, 2018: Side event
Recommendation "soil protection & sustainable land use"

**On-going projects 2018/2019**

- **Humus Management** and regional Production of Organic Fertilizers (Bio Forschung Austria), on-going project

- **LUCASSA** (LUCAS SOIL Austria): analysis of soil samples according to standardized methods (Lead Partner: AGES), on-going project

- **Alliance of Networks of Sustainability and Health** (co-operation with HealthAcross): project “HESOP Healthy soil for healthy people”

- **Shelter belts as Biotope Network Systems**: Assessment and Implementation

- **Soil Fertility**: area-wide Humus Management and regional Production of Organic Fertilizers provide relevant contributions to the adaption to climate change
Recommendation "soil protection & sustainable land use"

Work Program 2019, outlook

- Soil Map for the Danube Region
- Adaptation to Climate Change: Protection and Improvement of Green Infrastructure under the aspects of Health and Quality of Life
- Micro-farming: small-scale food production systems, perspectives for sustainable land use
- Production Potential of Agricultural Areas: Assessment of production potentials for Food, Feed and Fibre

DI Christian Steiner & DI Dr. Erwin Szlezak

Working Community of the Danube Regions
Working Group Sustainability – Soil Protection & Sustainable Land Use

NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde/Fachabteilung Landentwicklung
Landhausplatz 1, 3109 St. Pölten

christian.steiner@noel.gv.at  erwin.szlezak@noel.gv.at
E-Mobility Workshop

- WG meeting at E-Mobility Workshop in cooperation with PA2, 25\textsuperscript{th} and 26\textsuperscript{th} of May in Lower Austria
- 35 participants from Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Slovakia (ARGE DL, EDM)
- Focusing on an exchange of experience in e-mobility activities in the different countries / regions
E-Mobility Workshop

• Interesting lectures on:
  – Welcoming by Peter Obrecht (Lower Austria) and Pal Sagvari (Hungary, PA2)
  – The Comprehensive National E-Mobility Strategy of Hungary (Mr Zoltan Vigh)
  – Public charging in the Danube Region and in Hungary (Mr Szilárd Árvay)
  – Electro mobility strategy of Lower Austria (Klaus Alberer)
  – Dutch approach to zero-emission mobility and transport (Julia Williams-Jacobse)
  – Decarbonisation of the Transport Sector – E-Mobility in Austria (Henriette Spyra)
  – Car sharing in Lower Austria (Lisa Weissinger)
E-Mobility Workshop

• Highlight of the day was the visit of the nuclear power plant Zwentendorf, which was never put into operation.
E-Mobility Workshop

• Impressions of the nuclear power plant
E-Mobility-Day

• E-Mobility Day on 26th May 2018 in Melk, Wachau, Lower Austria

  – 8,000 participants
  – 86 exhibitors on topics related to e-mobility
  – More than 60 e-cars on the main test course
  – Hundreds of other e-vehicles (scooters, bikes etc.) on other test courses
  – Various side program (music, regional food, activities for kids...)

© M. Haslinger
Impressions of the E-Mobility Day

© M. Haslinger
Impressions of the E-Mobility Day

© M. Haslinger
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018

© eNu
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018

What:
– Guided tour for students and young professionals

The aim behind the tour:
– Explore the Danube region
– Develop a vision
– Get in touch with sustainable energy solutions
– Visiting energy projects, companies and research institutions
– Reflecting and discussing the findings and results during the tour

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018 - DAY 1

• Arrival of the participants at the office of the Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria eNu

• Welcoming, Round of Interviews
• Visit Lower Austrian government

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018 - DAY 1

- 11 participants from Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Czech Republic, and Hungary

„I expect to learn more technical aspects on renewable energy, but also to be with different people that work in different fields related to the energy transition“ Participant from Hungary

“Gain some knowledge of how energy projects could be realised” Participant from Austria

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018 - DAY 2

Program:

• Danube hydropower plant Ybbs
• Storage power plant Ottenstein
• Nuclear power plant Zwentendorf

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.
4. ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018 - DAY 3

Program:

• Vortex power plant Obergrafendorf
• Energy park Bruck/ Leitha
• Biogas plant
• Wind park

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme
4. ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018 - DAY 4

- Energy research park Lichtenegg (wind turbines)
- Clay – passive office building Tattendorf

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018 - DAY 5

• District cooling, hospital of St. Pölten (free cooling plant)

• Recommendations for participating countries / regions

• Workshop lessons learned

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme
Enriching! Energy future tour allowed me to meet a group of very enthusiastic and interesting young people with similar ambitions all with getting to know the exemplary region of lower Austria. Thank you so much for the experience!
Participant from France

I didn’t expect to learn so many new things and also to get a different point of view to renewable energy. Participant from Germany

This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.
ENERGY FUTURE TOUR 2018

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE AS A PARTNER REGION:

Please contact us if you are interested in joining the organisation of the tour.

eNu – Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria, www.enu.at
Website: http://www.enu.at/energy-future-tour

Tino Blondiau BSc
Wiener Straße 2, Top 1.03,
2340 Mödling
Email: tino.blondiau@enu.at
Tel: +43 676 83688311
TOURING EXHIBITION “DANUBE CARTOONS”

In the touring exhibition “DANUBEcartoons”, the Consortium of Danube Countries presents the work of artists from the Danube region who have interpreted aspects of cultural, ecological, economic and social life in the Danube basin in cartoons and caricatures.

The expedition started in Lower Austria on 28th June 2018 and will further travel to Bulgaria, Romania, and Serbia.
5. TOURING EXHIBITION “DANUBE CARTOONS”
6. **PROGRAM**

International standardized quality management program for municipalities and city's.
6. **E² Program**

Independent evaluation every three years by a commission

The award has a 5 step implementation level from 1 to 5 e’s
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATALOG OF MEASURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spatial planning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality owned buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supply and disposal of:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Waste water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobility</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internal organization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness rising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13% of the population lives in E5 municipalities

215,000 Inhabitants

64 e\textsuperscript{5} reached in Lower Austria

40 Municipalities

- Albrechtsberg
- Allhartsberg
- Baden
- Bisamberg
- Böheimkirchen
- Bromberg
- Echsenbach
- Ernstbrunn
- Ertl
- Gaweinthal
- Grafenwörth
- Großischödnau
- Hafnerbach
- Kapelln
- Kirchberg an der Pielach
- Klosterneuburg
- Krummunßbaum
- Laa an der Thaya
- Lanzenkirchen
- Lasseck

- Leobersdorf
- Leopoldsberg bei Wien
- Mank
- Mautern an der Donau
- Meiseldorf
- Mödling
- Neustadt
- Ober-Grafendorf
- Oberwaltersdorf
- Püttgen
- Pressbaum
- Seitenstetten
- Sierendorf
- Ternitz
- Traismauer
- Vösendorf
- Warth
- Wiener Neudorf
- Wieselburg
- Wilhelmsburg

[Stand 06.09.2018]
6. MODEL MUNICIPALITY GROßSCHÖNAU
Working Community 2018+

Topics covered by working groups:

Cities & urban issues
Topics covered by working groups:

Further topics: health

http://prezi.com/8qwkzblvqdiy/?utm_campaign=share_medium=copy
Current Issues:

- Institutional aspects
  - Reduce!
  - Declaration
    - 1 document (vs 3)
    - Council of Danube Cities and Regions (CoDCR)
    - English
Working Community 2018+

Current Issues:

- Institutional aspects
  - 1 coordination gremium
  - General sekretariat
  - Working groups
Current Issues:

- Cooperation with other institutions
  - EUSDR
  - AER
  - EDM
  - Austria guides
  - ....
EDM Cooperation

- Gegenseitige Unterstützung bei und etwaige gegenseitige Bewerbung von Aktivitäten der EDM und der ARGE Donauländer;
- Gegenseitige Einladungen zu relevanten Veranstaltungen und Fachkonferenzen;
- Förderung des gegenseitigen Informationsaustausches durch Information über relevante Beschlüsse der internen Gremien;
- In adäquaten Fällen die Organisation von gemeinsamen Sitzungen der entsprechenden Strukturen der EDM und der ARGE Donauländer
- Austausch von best practice Beispielen und Lösungen;
- Gemeinsame Vertretung allfälliger gleicher Interessen auf europäischer Ebene;
Current Issues:

- Projects with high visibility -> promoter of projects
  - DBS gateway project
  - Limes
  - Declarations, e.g. on cohesion policy/cohesion alliance, new silk road
  - Exchange best practices
Working Community 2018+

Current Issues:

- Reach more participation + Public relations
  - 2 heads within each working group: one east and one west from the iron gate
  - Survey among the Danube cities and regions
  - Rotate presidency within all the regions, esp. eastern regions
  - Include ambassadors more
  - Rethink the website: list of events
  - New logo
  - Social media
Imagination is the preview of the coming attractions of life.

Albert Einstein
Conclusions

- Work closely with the EUSDR
- Strengthen existing cooperation
- Reduce the institutional aspects
- Emphasize the substantive work

→ Continue existing activities and enable further possibilities of networking and cooperation within partners and institutions active in the Danube region and strengthen common projects within the Danube regions