

CONVENTION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR INLAND NAVIGATION ON THE DANUBE

5th CO-WANDA NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2014

REACHING THE FINISHING LINE

After almost two years of project implementation and with only a few weeks remaining before the close of the last chapter, it is now the time to share the many achievements, major milestones, pilot implementations and successful results bringing closer the goal of achieving harmonious waste management for inland navigation on the Danube.

Thanks to an international project team – forming a diverse melting pot from different areas, be it River Information Services (RIS), Waterway Administrations, Water Research Institutes, Port Authorities etc. –, and thanks to the project observers and external experts, the CO-WANDA project has achieved remarkable milestones. Excellent cooperation has characterized the project from the start, making it possible that the **International Danube Ship Waste Convention** can now be consulted in its final version.



Project Team at the last Work Package 5 Status Meeting in Vienna

3RD & FINAL INTERNATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION BOARD (IIB) MEETING

With the end of the project approaching, the finalisation of the International Convention – one of the core objectives of the project – was the top priority supported by the Members of the International Implementation Board. Besides providing information about the project progress and its current status, the goals of the last IIB meeting was to actively discuss the finalized version of the International Danube Ship Waste Convention and jointly decide on next steps once the project is completed.

This 3rd and last IIB Meeting took place in Vienna on 9th July, 2014. More than 40 participants, among which Consortium Members, the International Implementation Board Members as well as the CO-WANDA Observers, Mr. Milkovic (*International Sava River Basin Commission - ISRBC*) and Mr. Kovacs (*International Commission for Protection of the Danube River - ICPDR*) and the well-known international expert Ms. Mihaela Popovici attended, discussed the final draft of the IDSWC as well as possibilities for setting-up negotiations. The ICPDR and the ISRBC agreed that the CO-WANDA project should trigger international cooperation on operational level and approach the commissions in a formal way whether they would like to be the depositary of the Convention. Both representatives of the International River Organizations reiterated their support for the future. During the meeting, the partners presented their national strategies for the implementation of the Convention.



Impressions of the 3rd IIB Meeting in Vienna

The event concluded with a presentation by international expert Ms. Popovici who introduced the draft Joint Action Plan, summarizing the most important steps and measures to be taken by the Danube Riparian Countries to facilitate the implementation and further development of the International Danube Ship Waste Convention and gave future recommendations.

TRAINING COOPERATION

By the end of 2013, the project team was enriched with the participation of a new project member from Moldova – the Environmental Pollution Prevention Office (EPPO). Since then, the cooperation with the Lower Danube Region has been further strengthened. From 14th July to 16th July 2014, the Moldovan Authorities participated in a training programme in Austria. High on the agenda was the important topic of waste management with a practical study tour through Vienna's waste-treatment plants - among others the waste incineration plant of the city of Vienna and the biggest waste treatment and sorting plant of Austria.



Moldavian Training Days in Austria

Among the participants from Moldova and Austria were representatives of the Ministries of Environment as well as from the Ministries for Transport and Economy. Further the MD State Environment Inspection, the Environment Agency of Austria and viadonau were represented.

PILOT IMPLEMENTATIONS

By summer 2014, all pilot actions testing the Electronic Vignette System (EVS) were successfully finished, providing necessary and useful practical data for further technical development and inputs for the International Danube Ship Waste Convention as well as investigations regarding infrastructure development. More than 175 ships registered to be part of these pilot actions. In the period from July 2013 until June 2014 over 500m³ of bilge water, 33 m³ of waste oil and 2,5 tons of solid oily and greasy waste were disposed of in the participating countries. By using different collection systems, valuable experiences and data for future actions were collected.



CO-WANDA Pilot Actions in Bulgaria (vessel), Austria (suction truck) and Hungary (stationary)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CO-WANDA FINAL EVENT: 9TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Because all good things must come to an end, the CO-WANDA project will officially be closed with end of September. It is the pleasure of the project consortium to take the chance to thank all the important actors who have contributed to the success of this initiative since the first day. We therefore invite you to save the date of the **CO-WANDA Final Event**, which will demonstrate the results and achievements of CO-WANDA.

The final event, hosted by KTI will be held on **9th September 2014** in Budapest. **Keynote speakers** who have been asked for participation are:

- Ms. Irina Ploeg Cruceru, DG Regio
- Mr. Michael Fastenbauer, EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- Mr. Željko Milković, International Sava River Basin Commission (SC)

For more information please visit the CO-WANDA website at www.co-wandaproject.eu/ or contact Mr. Gabor Nagy (nagy.gabor@kti.hu).

CONFERENCES

With the aim to introduce the CO-WANDA project to a broad audience, the consortium uses opportunities to take part in conferences covering topics such as transportation, logistics, navigation, environment and waste management. The project is seizing the opportunity this year to present and disseminate the project results at the **7th European Inland Waterway Navigation Conference (EIWN)**, between 10th - 12th September 2014 in Budapest (<http://eiwn.vrht.bme.hu/>).



Another opportunity not to be missed is the **SEE Annual Conference**, to be held on 24th and 25th September 2014 in Ljubljana (Slovenia). CO-WANDA is one of the 122 projects approved within the four calls for proposals launched by the SEE Transnational Programme and has achieved valuable results, contributing to the overall territorial development in the South East Europe Region. Since the SEE programme is coming to its end, the closing conference will review, assess and present all the achievements gained since 2007. At the same time, the future European Territorial Cooperation Programme has been developed during 2013 and the new three transnational programmes in the area (Adriatic-Ionian, Balkan-Mediterranean and Danube) have been defined. The conference 'SEE VALUABLE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE' is aimed to highlight and showcase the added value of the SEE Programme since 2007 and to link it to the future of ETC in the area. The main outcomes achieved thanks to the SEE Thematic Capitalization Strategy will be presented as well.

For registrations and further information please visit: <http://www.seeconference2014.net/>

CONTACT DETAILS

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