

CONVENTION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR INLAND NAVIGATION ON THE DANUBE

6th CO-WANDA NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2014

CO-WANDA PROJECT SUCCESSFULLY FINALISED

After 24 months of successful project implementation the CO-WANDA Consortium can look back on a multitude of results and achievements reaching from online-tools, to studies and guidelines and above all an international convention, bringing closer the goal of achieving harmonious waste management for inland navigation on the Danube.



September 9th: CO-WANDA Final Event in Budapest

In the frame of the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme, the CO-WANDA project was implemented from September 2012 until September 2014, uniting 12 partners from 9 different countries (Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Moldova, and Ukraine). The main objective of the project was the coordinated harmonization of international rules and practices in the field of ship borne waste management in the Danube riparian countries by establishing a sustainable ship waste management system along the Danube from a conceptual, operational and financial point of view and to resolve the constraints imposed by national borders.

THANK YOU!

The CO-WANDA Consortium wants to thank all observers, stakeholders and participants of the project pilot actions for their support, the multitude of feedback received and the fruitful cooperation of the last two years!

CO-WANDA CELEBRATES FINAL EVENT IN BUDAPEST

On Tuesday the 9th of September 2014 the CO-WANDA project came to a successful end. Hosted by KTI – Institute for Transport Sciences, the event took place in Budapest assembling project partners, national and international stakeholders such as representatives of international commissions, authorities and ministries, Inland-Waterway-Transport-operators and other interested parties.

After the official opening ceremony by **Mr. Attila Vörös** (KTI, Hungary), **Mr. Péter Kovács on behalf of the Ministry of Interior, HU** welcomed the participants. In his speech he referred to the importance of high water quality and pointed out the role the international commissions could have in the future for developing an international binding agreement. Development of a green fleet is high on the agenda of European Union's inland waterway transport policy, as **Mr. Michael Fastenbauer** (viadonau¹, Austria) pointed out in his keynote speech, and as such, CO-WANDA is not only in line but implementing and bringing into real life EU provisions and plans.

After that, the project representatives summarised the main findings of two years work: **Mr. Hans Berger** (via donau, Austria) concluded two successful years of CO-WANDA and the goals of this transnational and interdisciplinary project among 12 partners from 9 countries. **Mrs. Iva Horvat** (PAV², Croatia) outlined key factors such as awareness raising among skippers for waste prevention. **Mr. Győző Simongáti** (KTI³, Hungary) talked about technical (e.g. Infrastructure Development) and economic aspects (e.g. Financing Model) of harmonised ship waste management along the Danube, underlining the existence of reception infrastructure but lack of demand-oriented allocation. Based on the experiences gained, he strongly recommended to use the developed Electronic System in the future. Afterwards **Mr. Róbert Rafael** (RSOE⁴, Hungary) presented the three different pilot actions undertaken which had the aim to gather practical data and further develop user-friendly solutions for skippers navigating the river. In this context different web-based solutions such as the Electronic Vignette System were developed facilitating ship waste management on different levels (skippers, authorities, collection companies). The session of project achievements was finished by the legal expert **Ms. Irena Gogl-Hassanin** (Jarolim|Flitsch⁵, Austria) summarising the core element of the project – *the International Danube Ship Waste Convention*, which is now available in its' draft.



**Hans Berger, Robert Rafael, Iva Horvat, Győző
Simongáti**

¹ viadonau – Austrian Waterway Company

² Port Authority Vukovar, Croatia

³ Institute for Transport Sciences Non Profit LTD

⁴ National Association of Radio Distress-signalling and Infocommunications

⁵ Jarolim|Flitsch Rechtsanwälte GesmbH

The 2nd part of the event was started by the international project observers, namely **Mr. Ivan Zavadsky - International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River**, **Mr. Horst Schindler - Danube Commission** and **Mr. Zeljko Milkovic, International Sava River Basin Commission** who in their speeches acknowledged the achievements of the project for the development of harmonised ship waste management in the Danube River Basin and reaffirmed the need for an international agreement concerning the subject matter.



CO-WANDA Observers

from left to right: Z. Milkovic – International Sava River Basin Commission, H. Schindler – Danube Commission, I. Zavadsky – ICPDR

Next, **Ms. Ingrid Pech, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs** gave a trigger presentation, outlining important preconditions and possible next steps in order to utilise the project work and the prepared draft for a Convention. Moreover, she expressed Austria's continued willingness to continue to work on the Convention together with other riparian states also beyond the present CO-WANDA Project.

Penultimate a roundtable discussion on the topic of 'Quo vadis CO-WANDA?' was held. Mrs. **Hélène Gilkarov** (viadonau, Austria) charmingly moderated the interesting dialog between different stakeholders. During the discussion, the participants pointed out their sometimes controversial approaches, however, the discussion showed the importance of the topic and the need to continue the development with utilising CO-WANDA results.



Roundtable Discussion

(from left to right: I. Zavadsky – ICPDR, G.V. Meel – EUROSHORE, B. Birkhuber – bmvit, A. Capatu – Pro Danube International, M. Popovici – International Expert, G. Simongáti – KTI, I. Pech – bmeia, H. Gilkarov – viadonau)

Finally, Mr. **Béla Hegyesi**, from the Managing Authority of the upcoming Danube Programme, which could be a possible funding source for a future transnational project for the implementation of the International Danube Ship Waste Convention, informed about the current status, the timeframe and criteria for project development.

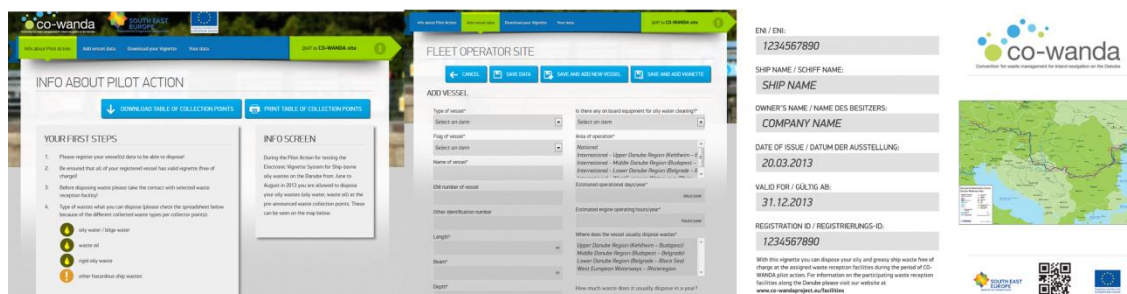
After an interesting day the event was closed with a concluding statement on the successful implementation of the project by Mr. **Gábor Albert** (KTI, Hungary) and Mr. **Michael Fastenbauer** (viadonau, Austria).

SELECTED PROJECT RESULTS

PILOT IMPLEMENTATIONS

In the frame of the project different pilot actions were conducted in order to gather real time data, analyse the as-is situation and test new applications.

From June 2013 until August 2014 pilot actions testing an **Electronic Vignette System (EVS)** were implemented in Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria and Romania. Vessels participating in the CO-WANDA pilot actions were 'equipped' with electronic vignettes free of charge, giving them the warranty for the disposal of their oily and greasy ship waste at predefined waste collection points without further payment. After online registration every vessel was allowed to dispose oily wastes (oily water, waste oil) internationally at 22 pre-announced waste collection points.



The screenshot displays the 'FLEET OPERATOR SITE' of the co-wanda system. It includes a sidebar with 'INFO ABOUT PILOT ACTION' and 'YOUR FIRST STEPS'. The main area is a registration form with fields for vessel details, operator information, and a map of the Danube region. A sidebar on the right shows the 'VIGNETTE' details, including the ENI number (1234567890), ship name, company name, and registration ID (1234567890).

Web-interface of the Electronic Vignette System

More than 185 ships registered to be part of these pilot actions originating from 20 different nationalities. Different collection systems (suction trucks, stationary facilities, mobile collection vessels) were tested, thereby collecting over 540 m³ of bilge water, 36 m³ of waste oil and 2,6 tons of other solid oily and greasy. 165 collection services were conducted internationally. By using different collection systems, valuable experiences and data for future actions were collected.

Besides the gathering of as-is data, the purpose of free waste collection services for oily and greasy ship waste was especially the testing of the Electronic Vignette System (EVS) as tool to support the administration of ship waste collection on different levels. The system provides user-surfaces for skippers, waste collectors and authorities tailored to their specific needs. After finalisation of the pilots the Web-Interface of the EVS was further improved including additional features such as an electronic oil control log.

A Pilot for the feasibility of **River Information Services (RIS) in supporting ship-borne waste management** procedures has been carried out in Hungary and Romania. Different tools have been involved showing that RIS can be used in a way that information necessary to plan, execute and monitor the reception of ship waste can be exchanged between reception facilities and the vessels. Furthermore it can provide information to support the administrative procedures connected to waste disposal procedure (e.g. documentation and statistics, such as vessel data cross-check before arrival, berth management) thereby allowing faster and more transparent procedures.

In the **Maritime Danube Ports in Romania**, inland-waterway- as well as sea-going vessels had the opportunity to dispose their ship waste in the ports of Tulcea and Galati (RO). Furthermore, a web application was developed in order to make online booking of waste reception services, simulation of ship waste reception costs and electronic processing of data available. With the aim of linking the financing systems used in the Maritime Danube Ports and in the River Danube Ports, two runs of pilots were performed amounting in 2,5 month duration (1st: 16.10.- 30.11.2013 & 2nd 16.03 – 15.04.2014).

During the pilot actions the waste generated by 212 sea-going vessels and 438 river vessels, totally 650 vessels, was collected, disposed and treated using the mobile and stationary facilities existing in the ports Galati and Tulcea.



CO-WANDA Pilot Actions in Romania: Galati Port & Tulcea Port (mobile & stationary)

More than 400 tons of bilge water, used oil, sludge, used batteries, used filters, household waste were collected free of charge combined with the possibility to use modern web-based tools in order to dispose the waste in safety and risk-free conditions.

The divers pilots performed within the project helped to gather important data, test new applications and offer advanced services, paving the way towards harmonised and more environmentally friendly ship waste management.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Investigations and surveys (including on-board visits, interviews and questionnaires) about on-board waste management and habits, underlined the significance of human behaviour in the context of proper waste management. Therefore information and awareness raising measures represent an essential tool for future improvement. In this context the existing e-learning platform INES Danube (<http://www.ines-danube.info>) was expanded by the course 'Ship Waste Management', which is now available in German and English language providing useful information on the topic. Further a 'Waste prevention Site' has been included in the CO-WANDA Website (<https://co-wandaproject.eu/waste-prevention/introduction/importance-of-waste-prevention.html>), giving interested parties the option to inform on the topic.



Ship Waste Management Module – INES Danube

INTERNATIONAL DANUBE SHIP WASTE CONVENTION

CO-WANDA centrepiece was the elaboration of an **International Danube Ship Waste Convention**, which provides rules and obligations for Inland Vessels navigating on the Danube River, related business operators, as well as the participating states, who will contribute to the installation of a sufficient dense infrastructure network and enforcement of the system.

Being at the end of CO-WANDA project, continued common efforts, international cooperation and commitment of the states are indispensable requirements for finalising the draft Convention, triggering negotiations and entering into force.

EVENTS

EIWN CONFERENCE

With the aim to introduce the CO-WANDA project to a broad audience, the consortium used the opportunity to take part in the **7th European Inland Waterway Navigation Conference (EIWN)**, held between 10th - 12th September 2014 in Budapest (<http://eiwn.vrht.bme.hu/>). Project results as well as the article 'Implementation of a harmonised Danube Ship Waste System' were presented among an interdisciplinary audience.

SEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Since the SEE programme is coming to its end, an opportunity not to be missed was the **SEE Annual Conference**, held from 24th and 25th September 2014 in Ljubljana (Slovenia). The closing conference reviewed, assessed and presented all the achievements gained

since 2007. At the same time, the future European Territorial Cooperation Programme has been developed during 2013 and the three new transnational programmes in the area (Adriatic-Ionian, Balkan-Mediterranean and Danube) are under preparation. **Since summer 2013, CO-WANDA has supported contents related inputs for these programmes by coordinating an expert group (Pole 9) for the topic “Green Transport Systems”** (http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/achievements/capitalisation_strategy/pole7/thematicpole9greenertransportsystems)

CONTACT DETAILS

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