

NEWADA duo – Network of Danube Waterway Administrations - data and user orientation – is an EU project, funded under the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme which supports the waterway management authorities of the Danube riparian states in achieving a common level of service in waterway management along the Danube and its navigable tributaries. This improved cooperation focusses on efficient and effective waterway infrastructure maintenance as well as customer-oriented services. The “NEWADA duo” approach of concerted waterway and information management procedures will translate into new benefits for the users.

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We wish you a Happy New Year!

Your
 **NEWADA**
duo
Team

This is the **third issue** of the newsletter of the NEWADA duo project. It is one of 4 which will cover all the aspects and partners of the project.

This newsletter can be downloaded at the NEWADA duo website: www.newada-duo.eu

Country in focus: Romania

In each issue of the NEWADA duo newsletter, one of our Managing Directors takes a few minutes to answer questions that are relevant for his/her country. In this issue, the focus is on Romania with AFDJ Managing Director Mircea Razvan Cristea:



Which challenges are you currently facing as a waterway administration on national or regional level in Danube navigation?

AFDJ Galati is currently facing challenges on both national and regional level.

On national level, the improvement of the waterway infrastructure and the quality of the services provided to the users have top priority. This can only be achieved through the implementation of the standards and the state-of-art technologies in the field of navigation.

On national and regional level, we need to improve our already existing cooperation with the national authorities and international in order to ensure proper navigation conditions. In the future, defining and implementing long and mid-term strategies will enable us to build a harmonized system for management of our waterway.

Out of the NEWADA duo project objectives, which waterway management services are the most important for your country?

Our participation in the NEWADA duo project is a very important step for AFDJ Galati that will pave the way for our work towards enhanced services for our users (i.e. navigation companies and authorities) thus providing the hydrologic data - water level and forecast -, hydrographical data - fairway parameters and shallow sections information -, meteorological data, ENC's, and signalisation data and a periodical hydro-meteorological bulletin.

Your company plays a key role in administering the Danube waterway in your country, how do you perceive your role in and special contribution to NEWADA duo?

AFDJ Galati, has accumulated experience over the last 158 years of service and the fact

that we are ensuring the navigation conditions for more than 40% of the Danube Fairway - connection with Black Sea by Sulina channel-, enables us to provide the support for all activities within NEWADA duo and to coordinate certain activities in the project.

Furthermore, the cooperation with other administrations from neighbouring countries and other institutions at national level is contributing to the regional development of river transport. Indeed, we need to remember that the Danube is the most important way of inland navigation transport in Southeast Europe.

To what extent do you think that the impacts of NEWADA duo will contribute to make Danube navigation a more competitive mode of transportation?

For the Danube, we need infrastructure development, harmonization of services and implementation of European policies, by promoting major projects to improve navigation conditions, based on the new common strategies. These is the essence of NEWADA duo: to ensure efficiency and demonstrate the competitiveness of inland waterway transport.

A.F.D.J. - R.A. Galati

A.F.D.J. – the River Administration of the Lower Danube – is tasked with assuring the navigation conditions on the Romanian Danube sector and putting the naval transport infrastructure at the disposal of all users. The AFDJ is also in charge of assuring the minimum navigation depths by means of carrying out topographic and hydrographic measurements, maintenance dredging, provision of costal and floating signalling, construction and repair works of hydro-technical constructions.
Read more: www.afdj.ro

NEWADA duo in focus: User Services Based on ICT (work package 5)

In the 5th Work package of NEWADA duo we are improving our single-window information portal on the Danube fairway (FIS Portal) and several WIFI hotspots along the river according to the needs of our users. New innovative services in the field of virtual marking and modern buoy monitoring are being introduced here in waterway maintenance.

This work package is divided into three activities:



Activity 5.1, labelled “Services based on WLAN” is dealing with further improvement of WLAN hotspots on the Danube to support navigation. These areas will serve as free of charge online hotspots where the skippers or local stakeholders can access inland navigation related information such as water level or notices to skippers. In some of the hotspots the network will be enhanced to better serve user needs, in some places new hotspots will be established.

A top priority here is to harmonise these services in order to support users to access information the same way on the Danube. In addition technical tests will be concluded in order to check whether latest standards could be used to improve services or not.



“Personalized FIS Portal” known as **Activity 5.2** is dealing with further development of the Danube FIS portal that was developed during the predecessor project NEWADA. Improvement measures are based on user feedback and are focusing on data quality and availability issues towards more reliable services. The new version of the FIS Portal will be accessible in 2014 at www.danubeportal.com and a new map feature will support the digital overview. For instance: the actual water level, notices to skippers and ice information from all NEWADA Danube countries will be displayed. The collection of Danube authorities’ contact or waterway objects information will be also available and quickly prove very useful to our users.



“Pilot for Aids to Navigation” (AtoNs) or **Activity 5.3** is about to design and execute a pilot in the field of Aids to Navigation.

The purpose of this activity is **twofold**: the **first** one is dealing with electronic monitoring and supervision of the buoys, which will contribute to increase work efficiency of the waterway administrators.

The **second** part is focusing on the virtual

buoys, how inland AIS tracking and tracing system can send out information on virtual fairway signs when the physical sign is not there for any given reason.

The pilot is planned on the Lower Danube involving border stretches and several countries and the results and experiences will be used by all partners.

NEWADA duo progress barometer

Project (WP1)

The 2nd Project Management Meeting took place in Zadar in September. Project Coordinators and Work Package Leaders informed the participants on the latest status of their work. The NEWADA duo project team also participated at the Accessible SEE Seminar in Split, where the future of the SEE programme was discussed. The project team was part of two thematic poles: Pole-7: Multimodal Accessibility to primary Networks, and Pole-9: Greener Transport System. [\[Read more here: http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danube-programme/index and on page 6\]](http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/about_see/danube-programme/index)

Dissemination & Communication (WP2)

NEWADA duo was represented at the PIANC Smart Rivers Conference in Liege and Maastricht in September 2013. Hélène Gilkarov presented the NEWADA duo project Network of Waterway Administrations – Network of RIS Providers and RIS Authorities together with Mario Sattler of IRIS Europe3 (www.iris-europe.net).

On 3-4 December, 2013 Belgrade was the host city of the DISC edition 2013. The NEWADA duo team was also present and gave an overview on the project developments.

With 70 participants it was a hailed a very successful conference. [\[Read more on page 8\]](#)

Harmonisation of basic data (WP3)

The preparation of a status quo report on shallow section information has been completed which will allow to provide an inventory of the content and procedures for a common agreement concerning the quality of service for displaying shallow section information. The technical requirements for a common management system of the marking activities on the Danube sectors from Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Croatia have also been prepared.

Improving customer orientation (WP4)

The NEWADA duo project partners are currently testing the IENC charts with depth information and the process of how to include depth information into such charts. Based on the partners' feedback, the Inland ENC's will be upgraded with depth information.

For the core activity - atlas of berths - the current status of data collection needed for the atlas of berths was presented by the partners and a common template approved. The existing D4D infrastructure with its web portal and maintenance portal functionality will be enhanced. The updated tool will be available by March 2014.



For the paper charts, another important item of WP4, a new paper chart tool is underway which will be available by February 2014. The launch of this new tool will be accompanied by user manual workshop to get all users accustomed to the new configuration.

User services based on ICT (WP5)

[See page 3]

Integrated waterway management (WP6)

The 3rd Board of Directors meeting (Act. 6.1) – hosted by Plovput – took place on 13–14 November 2013 in Belgrade. A proposal for the institutionalization of the BoD meeting and cooperation in the future was presented by the LP and discussed among the directors, who agreed on the necessity of such meetings in the future. Discussion on the topics of performance indicators and a common minimum level of service for the Danube waterway was based on an „Expert Report to Board of Directors on Common Level of Service on the Danube Waterway“. The latest developments in the FIS portal with its new structure and layout were also presented.

The 2nd ecological experts exchange in the framework of the Act. 6.2 took place in Hainburg East of Vienna (Austria) on 16–17 October 2013 as a joint conference between the NEWADA duo and DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0 projects around the topic of „river morphology and ecological river management“. With participants of Protected Areas as well as waterway administrations from nearly all Danube countries, discussions in cross-fertilization workshops could get to very concrete ideas, like preserving „wild“ Danube islands in a joint effort, common actions on sediment management or restoration, as well as integrated waterway management were all on the agenda. Project ideas were discussed on a Danube-wide level, but a clear aim of the conference was to intensify cooperation on national and regional level as well. [See page 6]

The 2nd waterway maintenance workshop (Act. 6.2) – hosted by AFDJ – took place on 30 October 2013 in Bucharest. The project partners involved in the activity presented their current national fairway monitoring and maintenance targets based on international legislation and recommendations. The experts agreed on a common level of service in some important need areas – the results of the discussions are included in an “Expert Report on Common Level of Service on the Danube Waterway“ which was submitted to the 3rd meeting of the Board of Directors.

A pilot action for depth data provision via echo sounders was launched and the echo sounder equipment used on the cabin vessels of *Viking River Cruises* was purchased and installed on board of one of via donau’s surveying boats. A first test of depth data sounding is currently being performed on the Austrian test stretch of the Danube, allowing a comparison with data received from high-precision single beam equipment which is permanently installed on the surveying boat.

Increase visibility and awareness (WP7)

A study visit to Rotterdam (Netherlands) was organized in October 2013, with the aim to improve communication and PR capacity of Danube waterway authorities and to expand the cooperation network to Dutch inland waterways organizations. The Netherlands were selected as a country with the longest tradition in the successful utilization of inland waterways potentials and as a country with the highest share of inland waterway transport in Europe. The perspective of professionals from the Netherlands definitely brought added value to the NEWADA duo project. Both the communication training and the synergy meetings resulted in increased know-how for the project team and knowledge related to inland waterways and inland navigation.

Data related to performances of the Danube

waterway was collected for the preparation of a Common Danube Report is in progress. Common Danube Report, the first document comprising user-oriented and jointly agreed indicators of the performances related to navigation conditions on the Danube River will be published in 2014.

The second round of national stakeholders' workshops in seven Danube countries will be organized in the period April-June 2014, when the NEWADA duo project team will present results achieved during the implementation of the project and plans for the joint activities in the future.

In review: NEWADA duo events

ACCESSIBLE SEE

The first workshop of the SEE Thematic Poles took place on June 19th 2013 (Bucharest, Romania) at the SEE Annual Conference. NEWADA duo was represented in Pole 7, alongside with the projects SEETAC, ACROSSEE, SEE ITS, HINT, SETA, WATERMODE, DAHAR and ADB Multiplatform, while in Pole 9, NEWADA duo was also represented along with CO-WANDA, ECOPORT / TEN ECOPORT, GIFT, ADB, IRON CURTAIN TRAIL, SEE-ITS and other experts.

On September 18th 2013 (Split, Croatia) both Thematic Poles met for a second workshop for coordinating the results of SEE projects for improved accessibility across the region with special attention on multimodal and green transport. Key questions about the future requested investment priorities, involvement of stakeholders and project implementations were on the agenda and new thematic topics identified. These results will support the programme programming process of the future transnational programmes in the Danube region for 2014-2020.

18 September 2013

Smart Rivers 2013

The 2013 edition of the SMART Rivers Conference was held from 22-27 September 2013 in Liège (Belgium) and Maastricht (Netherlands). SMART Rivers 2013 was the 6th conference of its kind, the first under the PIANC (World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure) banner.

Professionals and experts involved in river transport around the world attended SMART Rivers 2013 to share their views and know-how on trends, policy, technology and science. Altogether some 500 experts attended. NEWADA duo was also present with a group of 4, while Hélène Gilkarov presented the NEWADA duo approach to infrastructure Management and Waterway Authorities Network.

The next PIANC - SMART Rivers Conference is scheduled for September 2015 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

22-27 September 2013

Danubeparks

Cross-Sectoral Conference on River Morphology and Ecological River Management During atwo-day interdisciplinary conference the project teams of DANUBE PARKS STEP 2.0 and NEWADA duo, representatives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), Waterway Administrations and Danube Protected Areas met for the first time around a discussion table. This event aimed at establishing a new platform for international and interdisciplinary cooperation. Existing and potential conflict areas of the different interest groups were identified and discussed thoroughly in order to develop common approaches.

A follow-up workshop is scheduled for April or May 2014 in the framework of a NEWADA duo Ecological Expert Exchange.

16-17 October 2013

DISC 2013

The Danube Information Services Conference (DISC) 2013 was held on 3-4 December this time back in Belgrade, Serbia. Around 80 participants answered the invitation of the Directorate for Inland Waterways (Plovput). NEWADA duo was represented by a team of 7. On the second day, the NEWADA duo team of Work Package leaders (Hélène Gilkarov, Claudiu Dutu, Štefan Polhorský, Gergely Mező and Ivan Mitrović) held an interactive presentation on the latest developments of NEWADA duo.

This year the event was supported by commercial sponsors who are the companies that are developing solutions for applications on inland waterways and by NEWADA duo.

3-4 December 2013



Danube navigation...because we care