

DANTE - Improving Administrative Procedures and Processes for Danube IWT

DANTE aims at identifying and eliminating the administrative barriers for inland waterway transport (IWT) on the Danube & its navigable tributaries as a joint initiative of the private sector and the national public authorities responsible for these barriers. The project partners will develop good practices and guidelines for effective administration of IWT activities in relation to the identified barriers.

Administrative and related fiscal barriers in the logistics of goods and passengers on the Danube waterway and its navigable tributaries are a major obstacle for the efficient and sustainable use of the Danube as main transport axis of the region. The abundant existence of administrative barriers limits the economic and environmental potentials and reduces economic growth and social welfare in the entire region. Mitigating and abolishing the most important barriers in a coordinated and transnational manner is the core objective of the planned project and shall lead into a better governance of this European core transport infrastructure and reduce the logistics costs of major industries depending on the low-carbon waterway transportation for their global competitiveness. The European Commission has made the fight of administrative barriers and the derived higher logistics cost, to one of their priorities in the current transport policy agenda. After consultations with DG MOVE and DG REGIO it was decided to use the implementation programme of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the DTP and its Priority Area 1a as platform whereas the key stakeholders can be addressed and concrete solutions to the manifold existing barriers to be elaborated.

Within DANTE the focus is put on five thematic areas where administrative barriers are most evidently reducing efficiency of IWT operations, which are:

- (i) Border Police, Tax & Customs
- (ii) Navigation / traffic control authorities
- (iii) Port authorities / administrations
- (iv) Waterway and Canal administrations
- (v) Other relevant authorities imposing barriers (e.g. health control, disaster management, etc)

Considering the mentioned thematic areas solutions are elaborated and will be discussed with the responsible authorities at national and transnational working tables. This approach shall deliver quick solutions and facilitate a wide harmonisation of procedures and processes along the Danube river. One key element for the successful project implementation will be the development of a transnational IWT barrier reporting tool for collecting user experiences.

Project background

The DANTE project is co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA) under the Danube Transnational Programme and will run for 30 months (January 2017 - June 2019). It will be implemented by a transnational consortium of 16 co-funded organisations and 12 associated strategic partners (public authorities, consulting companies, universities and NGOs) from ten European countries. The project has a total budget of 1.982.786 Euro, out of which ERDF contribution amounts 1,650,134.75 Euro & IPA contribution amounts 35,233.35 Euro. More information is available at: www.interreg-danube.eu/dante



Contact details: Mag. Sarah Pfoser
+43 (0) 0508033261, sarah.pfoser@fh-steyr.at