

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 & OUTLOOK 2024



pro DANUBE



FOREWORD



HERFRIED LEITNER

CHAIRMAN

Pro Danube remains resolute in its dedication to advancing the cause of sustainable development, innovation, and cooperation within the Danube Inland Waterway Transport sector. Our commitment to these core principles serves as the compass guiding our endeavors and shaping our initiatives.



RÓBERT RAFAEL

GENERAL SECRETARY

Together, let us embark on the journey ahead, transforming challenges into opportunities and steering collectively towards a future that is not only sustainable but also prosperous. The course is set, and with unity and determination, we will navigate towards a more sustainable tomorrow.

REFLECTIONS ON 2023



Pro Danube proudly reflects upon the milestones achieved in 2023, a year marked by growth, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to the sustainable development of the Danube Inland Waterway Transport sector.

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION

A notable highlight of the year has been the warm embrace of new members into the Pro Danube network. We are delighted to welcome WienCont, Mondoluka Plus, Kanzlei Anzböck, Donau Partner, and Novofer to our association. Their inclusion brings diverse perspectives, expertise, and a shared commitment to the sustainable development of the Danube Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) sector. Together, we strengthen the foundation of our community and amplify our collective impact.

VOICE OF THE SECTOR

Pro Danube actively engaged in expert groups such as the DINA and NAIADES Expert Groups as well as the EUSDR and the Rhine-Danube Corridor Forum Meetings. This engagement allowed us to amplify the voice of the sector at the transnational level.

The imminent revision of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) holds significant implications for the Danube IWT sector, and Pro Danube's involvement ensured that the sector's challenges were well-represented. We remain committed to advocating for policies that foster the sustainable growth of inland waterway transport.

COOPERATION

Pro Danube has consistently demonstrated its commitment to fostering cooperation by maintaining strong ties with European branch organisations. The synergies created through these alliances contribute to a unified and harmonised voice that effectively advocates for the interests of the Danube IWT sector. Through collaborative efforts, we strive to create an environment conducive to the growth and prosperity of the entire sector.



MORE THAN JUST PORTS



Important pillars of multimodality, high performing ports of the future must expand their capabilities well beyond their status as transshipment hubs towards focal points of renewable energy solutions.

PORTS AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION

Pro Danube made substantial progress in projects like MultiRELOAD and the Green Inland Ports Study, emphasising the pivotal role of ports in shaping a resilient, sustainable, and smart logistics network.

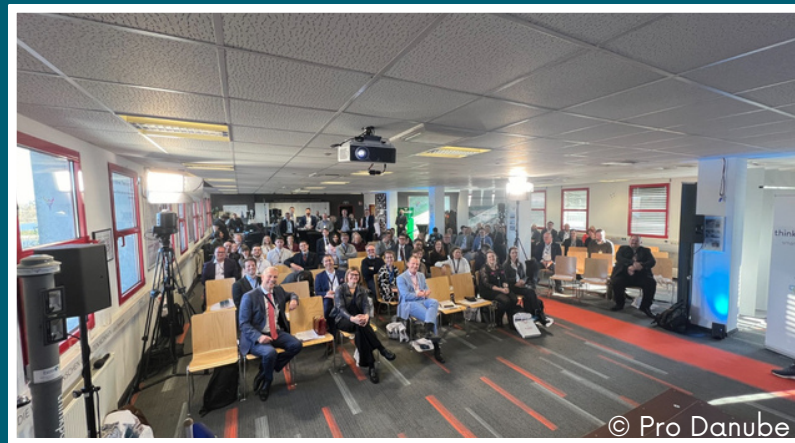
The Green Inland Ports Study aims to identify key factors influencing sustainable development within inland ports, proposing innovative solutions that align with both environmental and economic objectives. The study is set to play a crucial role in shaping policies and strategies to enhance the sustainability of inland navigation, addressing the growing need for eco-friendly practices within the industry. Pro Danube plays a crucial role in the Green Inland Ports Study, particularly focusing on the digitalisation of ports. Port digitalisation involves the application and integration of digital technologies to enhance various port processes, aiming to improve efficiency, streamline operations,

reduce risks, lower costs, minimise environmental impact, and provide better services throughout the port industry and supply chain.

Moreover, Pro Danube is actively involved in the MultiRELOAD project, which brings together a consortium of ports, advanced technology providers, logistics and service companies, prominent European research institutions, and well-established networks. The project aims to facilitate a significant shift to sustainable transport, improve supply chain efficiency, and encourage capacity-sharing in crucial Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) corridors, with a specific focus on the Rhine-Alpine and Rhine-Danube Corridors.



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



The Danube Ports Days 2023 served as the focal point for high-profile representatives from the European Parliament, European Commission, international river commissions, the City of Vienna, port authorities, and various stakeholders in the inland waterway transportation (IWT) sector.



THE PULSE OF THE SECTOR



Keeping our members well-informed about the latest industry trends, regulatory changes and emerging opportunities is at the heart of our activities. We firmly believe that communication is key to unlock the full potential of the sector, thus we commit ourselves to take the pulse of the Danube IWT industry.

PRO DANUBE NEWSLETTER

At Pro Danube we are committed to foster progress and innovation in our industry. We believe in keeping our community informed and engaged and for this, we publish a monthly newsletter. Additionally, we offer exclusive broadcasts of hot topics in "**Have Your Say**" and "**Important Information**", a feature reserved for our valued members.



PRO DANUBE LINKEDIN PROFILE

With its interactive features, networking capabilities, and content-sharing options, Pro Danube's LinkedIn presence is a central hub for IWT professionals and enthusiasts alike seeking real-time insights into the latest developments within the Danube IWT sector and well beyond.



OUTLOOK



Pro Danube remains dedicated to advocating for a robust IWT industry, recognising that climate neutrality is unattainable without inland waterway transport. Our focus on proper fairway maintenance and the crucial role of ports will persist as key elements in shaping the future of the sector.

OUR MISSION

Our vision remains clear: climate neutrality is not just an aspiration but an essential goal, and we firmly believe that inland waterway transport is an integral part of this journey. Climate neutrality is unattainable without IWT. At the core of our mission is the dedication to efficiently represent and advocate for the needs and requirements of the sector in the decision-making process. YOUR voice is paramount and we are steadfast in ensuring it resonates in the corridors of influence.

CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

We don't merely stop at advocacy. Our team is actively engaged in EU-funded projects that go beyond rhetoric, offering tangible solutions to facilitate the sector's transition towards climate neutrality. These solutions are crafted with a dual focus – coupling innovation with economic viability, recognising that sustainable solutions must be financially sound.

In addition, our commitment to proper fairway maintenance and the development of sustainable ports remains at the heart of our mission, given that they are vital for the seamless functioning of IWT.

2024 promises continued collaboration, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to the sustainable future of inland waterway transport on the Danube. Together, we will chart a course towards a greener, more resilient industry.



CONTACT US

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