Joint PA 1a& PA 11 Working Group Meeting and 1st Transnational Workshop of the DANTE project
(24th October 2017)

On the 24 October 2017 in the Danube Commission was held Joint PA 1a& PA 11 Working Group Meeting and the 1st Transnational Workshop of the DANTE project.

Enhanced format of consultations and in-depth consideration of administrative barriers in the Danube region, procedures related to the customs, border control, border police check as well as security aspects within regional and inter-regional perspective were the main topics.

It was noted that cross border operations go along with the biggest loss of time and highest operational costs. There is unique approach to work together very intensively to overcome also these parts of administrative bottlenecks.

It was agreed that three documents under the Danube Navigation Standard Forms-DAVID were harmonized until the next meeting on the 24 April 2018:
- Arrival and departure report
- Crew list
- Passenger list

Danube Commission was the first in the European inland navigation to develop several fundamental documents on the security of navigation, including Recommendations on ensuring the security of navigation on the Danube. This Recommendations and accompanying documentation represent a starting point for further work on this issue with the aim to elaborate a common regulatory framework which will meet the requirements of the whole Danube region.

There is link with DANTE project. DANTE aims at identifying and eliminating 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. DANTE facilitates the work of EUSDR PA1a and is acknowledged by the EC/DG MOVE as part of their efforts to reduce administrative barriers in the transport sector.

DANTE is also selected as EUSDR Strategic Project.

DC after nine months of implementation giving full contribution to the realization of the project, especially in the part that is responsible, Work Package 5 - Strategy and Capitalization.

On the 21 September 21, 2017, the DANTE project announces the instrument of transnational reporting is the first result of the DANTE project, which establishes for the collection of data from IWT stakeholders. This innovative multilingual tool -eight languages (EN, DE, SK, HU, RS, HR, RO, BG) allows the use of a modern method of comparing the daily barriers of participants and the results of shipping in a database that will serve as a basis for further analysis and recommendations to be put in during the next months of the project.
After first analysis under the project per countries for most of them border control issues were the most procedures reported. For some countries procedures involving port authorities or traffic navigation were the biggest number of procedures reported. Although the data is not very comprehensive at this point some critical issues were already identified. It became clear that the authority mentioned most was Border police, Tax & Customs.

Next Transnational Workshop of the DANTE project will be held on the 6 December 2017 in Galati.