

Expert Meeting on Security in Inland Water Transport (EM SEC)

AQUAPOL - „Danube – Black Sea” HUB

Budapest

12 of March 2025



1. OPERATIONAL PLANNING (M.A.C.O.)

During last year we organised 4 MACO:

- **Watersec 2024**
 - *1 week: 22-28.04.2024*
- **Safe Waters 2024**
 - *1 week: 22– 28.07.2024*
- **Clean Waters 2024**
 - *2 weeks: 23.09-06.10.2024*
(postponed in some countries for 21.10-03.11.2024)
- **Port Control 2024**
 - *1 week: 18.11-22.11.2024*

M.A.C.O. WATERSEC 2024

22- 28.04.2024

OBJECTIVES :

- 1. Increasing safety and security of the navigation on the Danube river**
- 2. Preventing and fight against frauds committed within water transport of public & goods;**
- 3. Preventing and fight against illegal migration and illegal fishing.**

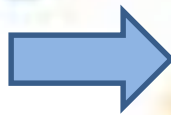
M.A.C.O. WATERSEC 2024

- participants: Romania (TPD, BP, RNA), Germany, Bulgaria (BP), Hungary (RPB), Croatia (BP), Ukraine (AWP), Slovakia (WT Division) and Austria.

- **Results:**

ACTS - have been verified :

- **13.478 people;**
- **1.880 vessels;**
- **240 cars;**
- **30 companies**



FACTS:

- **52 crimes;**
- **169 fines amounting 20.000 euro;**
- **seized goods:**
(arround 30.000 Euro)

M.A.C.O. SAFE WATERS 2024

22- 28.07.2024

OBJECTIVES :

- 1. Preventing events / naval accidents;**
- 2.Preventing and fight against the use of alcohol on board ships;**
- 3.Preventing and fight against terrorism;**
- 4.Preventing and fight against illegal migration;**
- 5.Fighting against tax evasion;**
- 6.Verifying the legality of using the workforce;**
- 7.Checking the legality of recreational and waterborne activities;**
- 8.Compliance with the legal regime of the state border.**

M.A.C.O. SAFE WATERS 2024

- participants: Romania (TPD, BP, RNA), Germany, Hungary (RPB), Croatia (BP), Bulgaria (BP), Slovakia (WT Division) and Ukraine (AWP).
- **Results:**
 - ACTS*** - have been verified :
 - **14.839 people;**
 - **776 vessels;**
 - **1.100 cars;**
 - **120 companies**

FACTS:

- 23 crimes;
- 213 fines amounting 40.000 euro;
- **seized goods:**
(around 30.000 Euro)

Control on recreational activities 12 – 14.08.2024

- Within the context of the measures taken during the summer season in order to increase the safety and security of the navigation regarding ski jets and recreational crafts along Bşack Sea coast, Romanian Transport Police in cooperation with Coast Guard and Romanian Naval Authority act together during **12 – 14.08.2024**.
- Areas of action: **the Black Sea coast;**
- All Companies that carry out recreational activities in Mamaia, Navodari, a.s.o.. were checked.



M.A.C.O. CLEAN WATERS 2024
originally scheduled between 23.09 -
06.10.2024

This activity was postponed due to the storm Boris and Ashley that affected a large number of the Danube riparian states.

We establish a new period for this MACO during 21.10 – 03.11.2024.

M.A.C.O. CLEAN WATERS 2024

OBJECTIVES :

- 1. Following the environmental rules on the Danube river;**
- 2. Preventing the deliberate *spill of hydrocarbs/diesel fuel* from the vessels in transit on the Danube river;**
- 3. Other activities that can pollute the Danube river;**
- 4. Illegal fishing;**
- 5. Preventing and fight against the naval transport crimes.**

M.A.C.O. CLEAN WATERS 2024

Participants: 6/10 riparian Danube countries (SK, HU, HR, SRB, RO, UA).

Results:

ACTS - have been verified :

- 16.424 people;
- 1.373 vessels;
- 120 cars;
- 34 companies

FACTS:

- 61 crimes;
- 299 fines amounting **130.000 euro;**
- seized goods:
(around **70.000 Euro**)



M.A.C.O. PORT CONTROL 2024

18 - 22.11.2024

OBJECTIVES :

- 1. Preventing and fight against tax evasion and trafficking in counterfeited products;**
- 2. Legality of storage, transport and sale of wooden materials;**
- 3. Preventing and fight against smuggling of excise goods;**
- 4. Checking fuel management on board of the vessels;**
- 5. Checking the way of ensuring security measures of the economical objectives**

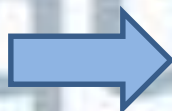
M.A.C.O. PORT CONTROL 2024

This M.A.C.O. took place only in the port of Constanta on maritime level.

Results:

ACTS - have been verified :

- **700 people;**
- **25 vessels;**
- **130 cars;**
- **20 companies;**
- **298 containers;**
- **264 trucks.**



FACTS:

- 2 important crimes;
- 31 fines (10.000 euro);
- **seized goods:**
(around 180.000 Euro)
 - Counterfeited toys and other goods that were not mentioned in the documents or for using unreal import documents.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING

- **Trainings/workshops/meetings/seminars:**
 - **1st DBS HUB meeting** – online – **11.04.2024**;
 - **2nd DBS HUB meeting** – online – **10.10.2024**.
 - **Missing body and recovery in water** -demo and forum exchange - 05th-06th of March 2024 Conflans, Ste Honorine, France;
 - **AQUAPOL Academy** – 03 – 04th of April 2024, Strasbourg, France;
 - **AQUAPOL – HUBS coordination meeting** - 17th-18th/April 2024 Tallinn, Estonia, 3rd of December 2024 Paris;
 - **AQUAPOL – COUNCIL meeting** – 4th of December 2024 Paris.

ORGANIZATIONAL PLANNING

FACEBOOK page for **AQUAPOL IMDBSH** and **AQUAPOL European Waterways & Maritime Policing Network** for visibility improvement within one of the most popular social media platform.



Aquapol Danube Black Sea HUB

65 aprecieri • 77 urmăritori

AQUAPOL DBS HUB is fully dedicated to enhancement of safety and security on Danube and Black Sea



Promovează această

Commission

Missing body and recovery in water

05th-06th of March 2024, Conflans, Ste Honorine, France

The seminar on investigating cases of drowned/missing persons on inland waterways or in the maritime area was attended by specialists from the naval police structures of France, Belgium, Estonia, Portugal, Hungary, Romania, Croatia and Ukraine.

The **main topics** of the seminar were:

- presentation of the **underwater forensic technique** of the French gendarmerie;
- recovery of corpses from the water surface and identification of victims (D.V.I);
- best practices for dealing with a maritime disaster;
- Demonstration activity on forensic management in the context of a naval disaster;
- Demonstration activity of a D.V.I. team from the French forensic department in the context of a naval disaster.

Missing body and recovery in water

05th-06th of March 2024, Conflans, Ste Honorine, France

On the first day, methods of recovering corpses from the underwater environment and the difficulties of lifting traces were presented and also underwater evidence (fingerprints, optical detection, DNA and oxidation in the case of mobile phones and firearms).



Missing body and recovery in water

05th-06th of March 2024, Conflans, Ste Honorine, France

On the second day there was a **demonstration of recovering a body from the surface of the water on the River Seine.**

With this occasion, the previously described methods of victim identification were put into practice

In addition, forensic victim identification techniques (D.V.I.) were presented with the support of the specialized team of the French criminal police.



AQUAPOL ACADEMY

03th-04th of April 2024, Strasbourg, France

- **Oil Blending;**
- **Port security and criminality within the supply chain (Port of Antwerp);**
- **Port security (Port of Boulogne Calais);**
- **Profiling MAOC (Maritime Analysis and Operation Centre Narcotics);**
- **Counter Terrorism measures UK.**

AQUAPOL ACADEMY

04th of April 2024, Strasbourg, France

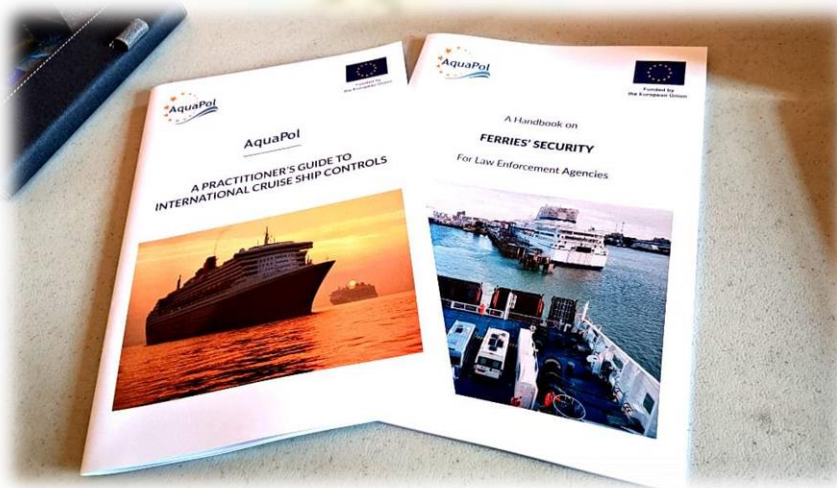
Exercise: CBRN – action on board of merchant vessel



AQUAPOL ACADEMY

03th-04th of April 2024, Strasbourg, France

Exercise: CBRN – action on board of merchant vessel



Romanian – Bulgarian common naval patrol

- After Romania and Bulgaria joined the SCHENGEN area on the 31.03.2024, the Romanian (Transport Police) – Bulgarian (Border Police) common naval patrol was re-operationalized as a compensatory measure.
- Every month are organized 14 common naval patrol along Danube, on 7 sectors.



AQUAEX 2023

- ❑ The **first AQUAPOL joint exercise on the Danube river**, organized in Giurgiu (RO), on the **20th of September 2023**;
- ❑ The exercise involved the **cooperation between Romanian and Bulgarian police forces**;
- ❑ ***Scenario***: first Police response and intervention procedures to a CBRN incident on board of a vessel
- ❑ The exercise was scheduled during the „CLEAN WATERS 2023” MACO and was succeeded by the second DBS HUB meeting, today (as the debriefing session day).



AQUAEX 2023

The scenario was based on an emergency call made by a fisherman through the *Romanian National System for Emergency Calls – 112*, who reported that he observed many canisters with toxic substances on board a ship which was navigating on Danube.



Due to the fact that the emergency call was taken during the **CLEAN WATERS M.A.C.O.**, when the joint RO-BG naval patrols and other authorities were on duty, there were sent **two Police boats** for specific checks.

AQUAEX 2023

Because the suspected ***ship doesn't stop*** at the Police request and signals, and because persons on board started to randomly manipulate the indicated canisters, it was taken the decision to make ***the approach*** of that ship on both sides, in order to avoid the throwing them overboard.



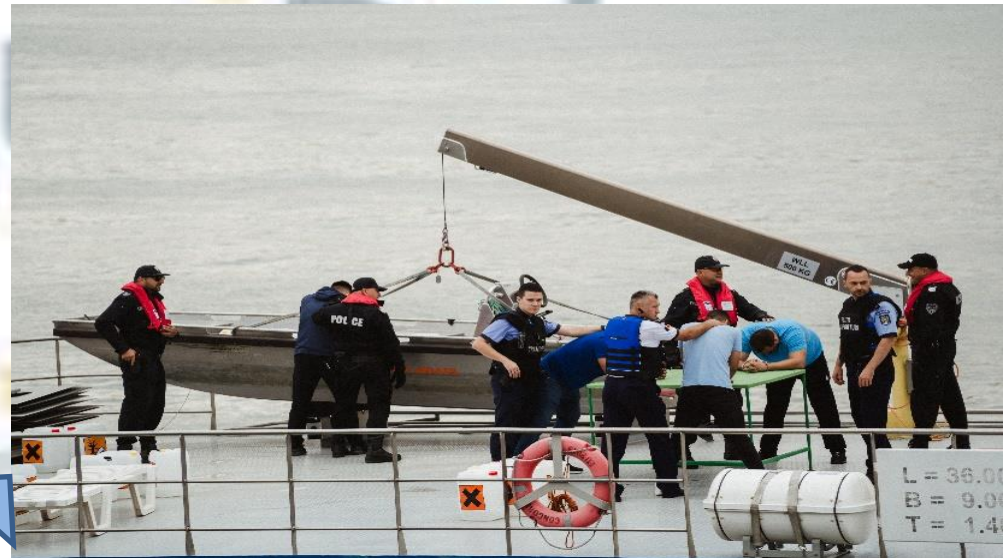
Basically, it was the first simultaneously joint approach, on both sides, made on Danube river by two different countries.

AQUAEX 2023

After the Police double approach, the Master of Giurgiu Harbour has ***taken the control*** of the ship's command. Then he coordinated the ship's captain to turn it back and to dock it at the Romanian river side.

In the meantime, the suspects were arrested by the joint Police RO–BG patrols, which actioned together.

Because all the canisters contained liquid inside and were previously marked with specific signs of dangerous substances (reported also by the fisherman who called to 112), it was asked the CBRN team support & intervention by using the Police communications.



AQUAEX 2023

- During the time for ship handling to the port berth, the CBRN team arrived and installed a mobile station for self-decontamination post-intervention. Also, the CBRN team members equipped themselves with special suits for chemical protection, decided that all people on board have to be taken on the river side.
- After that, they CBRN team boarded the ship and opened the canisters in order to make the chemical analysis on board. The procedures were fully applied by taking all the people out of the ship, at a convenient protection distance, but also to offer the possibility to assist to the analyzing and sampling process.



AQUAEX 2023

After getting ***positive results*** about the analyzed dangerous chemicals onboard, they have prelevated samples as ***evidences***, which were ***packed, sealed and decontaminated***, then were sent to the prosecutor office together with the perpetrators. Also the CBRN team were ***decontaminated*** itself and the evidences, in the special station installed before.



AQUAEX 2023

The *escort* took the perpetrators to the prosecutor office.



3. STRATEGIC PLANNING

(2025 priorities / tackling)

- **DBS HUBs priorities for 2025 :**

- ***Safety and security of the navigation*** on the Danube River;
- Prevent and fight against ***tax evasion***;
- Prevent and fight against ***smuggling of excise goods***;
- ***Illegal migration***;
- Prevent and fight against ***environmental crimes***.

Multi Agency Control Operations for **2025**:

- two M.A.C.O.s of one week focused on safety of inland shipping on the Danube:
 - „WATERSEC 2025” in April 2025** (one week);
 - „SAFE WATERS 2025” in July or August 2025** (one week);
- one M.A.C.O. of two weeks, focusing on smuggling of petroleum products and preventing and fight against environmental crimes **„CLEAN WATERS 2025”**;
- one M.A.C.O. of one week in Romania (in cooperation with Romanian Border Police and Romanian Custom Authority), Croatia, Bulgaria and Ukraine **„PORT CONTROL 2025” in november 2025.**

Actions for the Inland and Maritime „Danube – Black Sea” HUB for **2025**

Type of action	Who	When											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2 control operations on safety and security of navigation *	Chair DBSH												
1 control operation on smuggling of petroleum products **	Chair DBSH												
1 Control operation on tax evasion ***	Chair DBSH												
HUB meetings	Chair DBSH												

* - „**WATERSEC 2025**” and „**SAFE WATERS 2025**”

** - „**CLEAN WATERS 2025**”

*** - „**PORTCONTROL 2025**”

QUESTION??????



Thank you for your attention!

Chairman of the AQUAPOL „Daube – Black Sea” HUB
Chief superintendent

Alexandru PETRACHE