Donaukommission – Commission du Danube – Дунайская Комиссия – Danube Commission

Austria Bulgaria Croatia Germany Hungary Moldova Romania Russia Serbia Slovakia Ukraine

**DANUBE COMMISSION
Expert group for personnel issues
in navigation on the Danube
29 January 2026**

Danube Commission

Igor Alexander
Councillor for Nautical Affairs

Staff survey 2026

Aspect	Austria (EU)	Croatia (EU)	Hungary (EU)	Slovakia (EU)	Ukraine (non-EU)
Implementation of Directive (EU) 2017/2397	Complete	Largely; final adjustments	Complete; national qualifications (Art. 7)	Fully since 2022	In implementation
Legal framework	National law within the EU framework	National law within the EU framework	National law within the EU framework	National law within the EU framework	National laws, approximation
Training structure	Highly consolidated	University education available; vocational training under development	Multi-level (basic–management); several providers	Predominantly private providers, state-approved	Broad state and institutional network
State education	Yes	Partially	No	No	Yes
Private training providers	Limited	Limited	Several	Exclusively	Supplementary
Examination authority	State commission	State port authorities	Central Examination Centre (KAV)	State Transport Authority	State Qualification Commission
Examination formats	Written, oral, practical	Theoretical & practical	Written, oral, practical	Written + simulator practice	Computer-based & practical
Practical examination	On board	On board	On board (no simulators)	Simulator (EU Boatmaster)	Simulator and/or on board
Additional qualifications (radar, passengers, etc.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (via provider)	Yes
Special routes / risks	National	National	Danube, Rhine, Tisza	National	National
Staff shortages	Yes (qualitative)	Yes (especially young recruits)	Yes (boatman, boatmaster)	Yes (statistically proven)	Not assessable
Statistical data	Weak	Weak	No exact data	Available (decline)	Currently not reliable
Measures to promote young talent	Limited	Limited	No central programmes	Concrete reform (new educational programme from 2026/27)	Not evaluated
Special framework conditions	–	Start-up phase	Use of national leeway	Market-based model	War, transitional law