

# Review of fairway conditions on the Danube in 2025

Iris Marstaller | Joint Workshop of EUSDR/PA1a and the Danube  
Commission | 04 March 2026



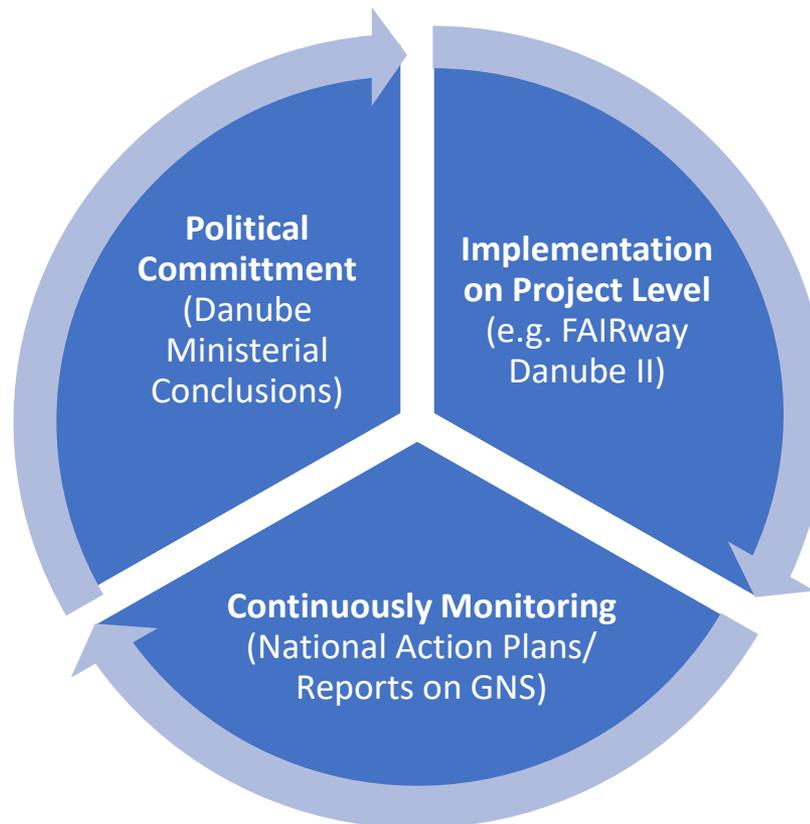


# Status of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan

# Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan (FRMMP)

main element in the transnational coordinated development of Danube navigation

highlights all critical locations and the required short-term measures to ensure proper fairway maintenance & rehabilitation



## Danube Ministerial Conclusions 2024

On **4<sup>th</sup> April 2024**, the Danube **Ministers of Transport** (DE, AT, SK, HR, RS, RO, BG, MD, UA)

**reaffirmed their commitment to improve framework conditions for Danube navigation**

- need for ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance efforts beyond 2024
- sufficient national financial resources, especially ensuring a sustainable yearly operational budget allocation
- fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to develop Nature-Based Solutions for maintaining and rehabilitating the river





### Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan – Danube and its navigable tributaries

### **Conclusions**

*on effective waterway infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance on the Danube and its navigable tributaries*

2014

2016

2018

2020

2022

2024

## Monitored by:

Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance  
MASTER PLAN  
for the Danube and its navigable tributaries:

### National Action Plans

Update October 2015

### Report on Good Navigation Status

Status 2025

Currently implemented through  
FAIRway Danube II project  
Input AT-SK-HU-HR-RO-BG  
Input DE-BA-RS-MD-UA

→ FWDII  
→ EUSDR



# Status of fairway conditions in 2025

## Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Master Plan

# Hydrological conditions 2025

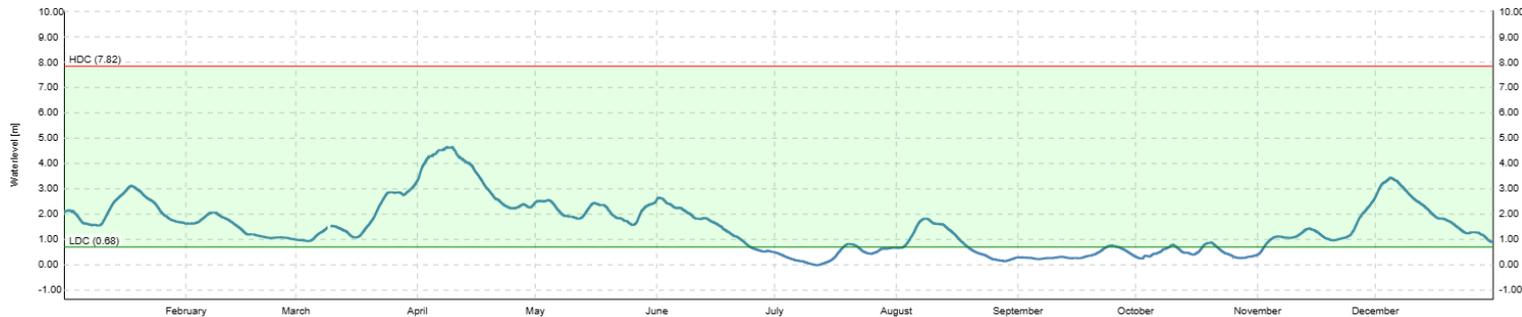
Upper Danube  
(Wildungsmauer)



Central Danube  
(Dunafoldvar)

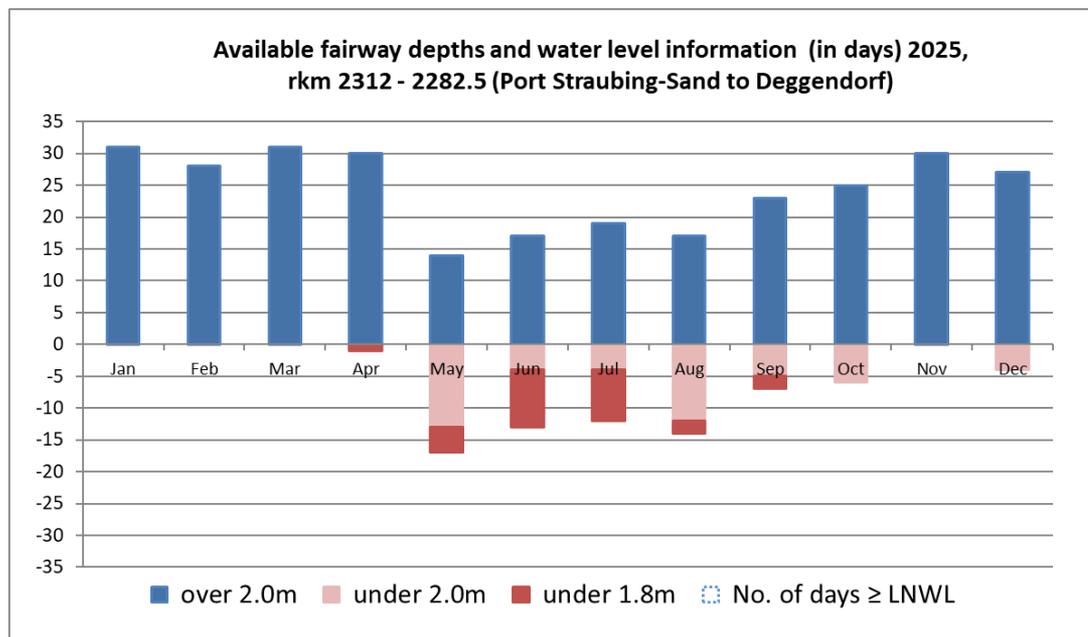


Lower Danube  
(AHS Svishtov)



## Upper Danube – Germany

German critical sections suffered throughout the year from low water – especially from May-August

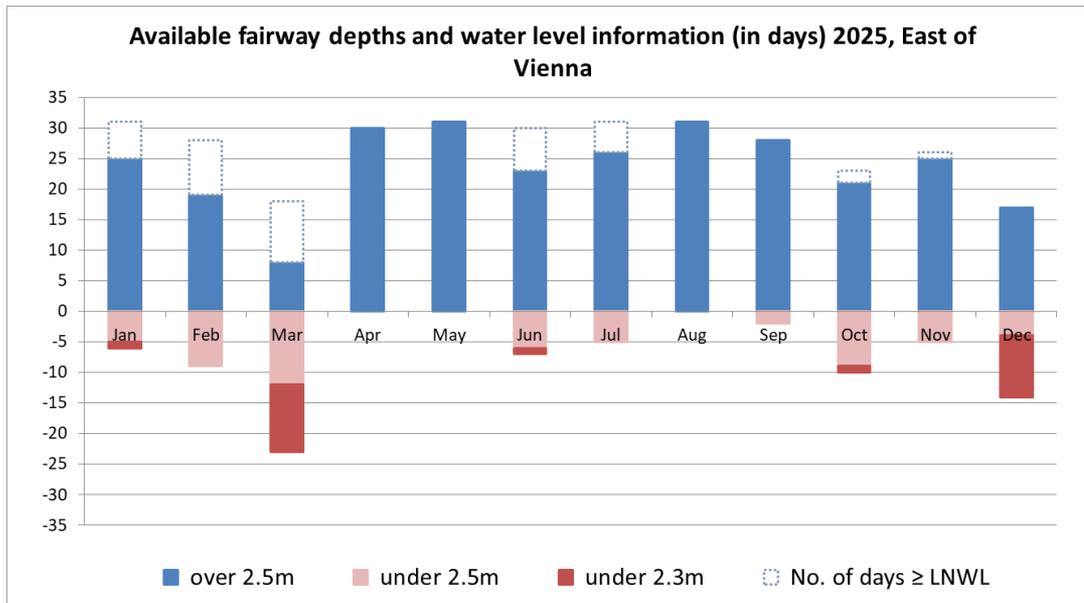


- 266 surveying activities
- 28 dredging interventions mainly in the second half of the year (ca. 100.000 m<sup>3</sup>)

**!** In the free-flowing section between Straubing and Vilshofen the current objective is to maintain the fairway depth of 2.00 m related to LNWL

## Upper Danube – Austria

Austrian sector east of Vienna was more challenging than the previous years, with 51 days below 2.5 m fairway depth.

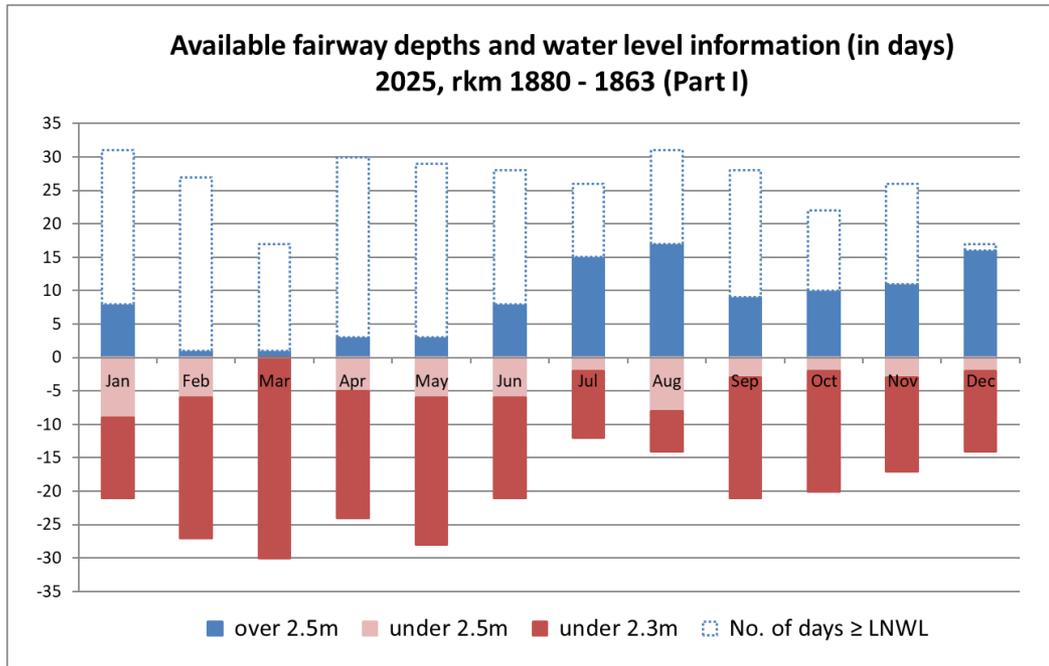


- Early 2025 operations focused on cleanup from September 2024 flood and prioritized dredging due to limited equipment availability.
- much lower discharge than in 2024, with frequent low-water periods, throughout the year
- Navigation continued throughout, but fairway depth targets of a normal year were not fully achieved.

- Total dredging volume: 462.283 m<sup>3</sup>

# Upper Danube – Slovakia

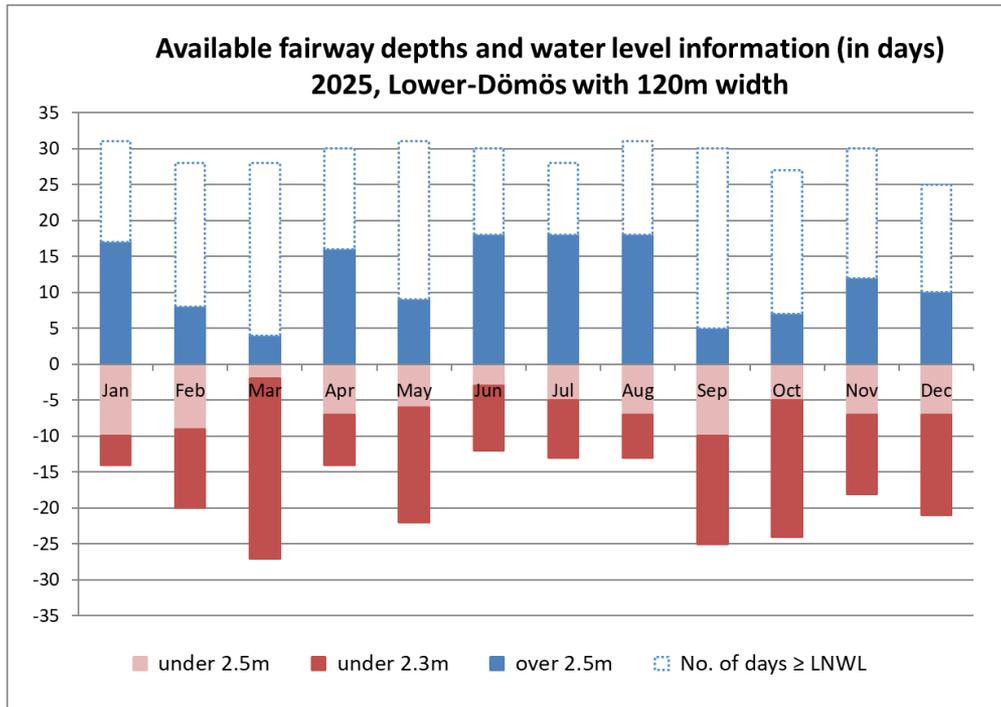
Slovak section with major limitation throughout the year 263 days below 2.5m between upstream of Gabčíkovo → most limiting sector for 2025



- Below average discharge and leftover sedimentation from the flood in September 2024 affected navigability
- 93 surveying tours
- Weekly marking tours
- 6 dredging interventions
  - 106.313 m<sup>3</sup> Danube,
  - 19.353 m<sup>3</sup> Gabčíkovo canal (reservoir Hrušov)

# Central Danube - Hungary

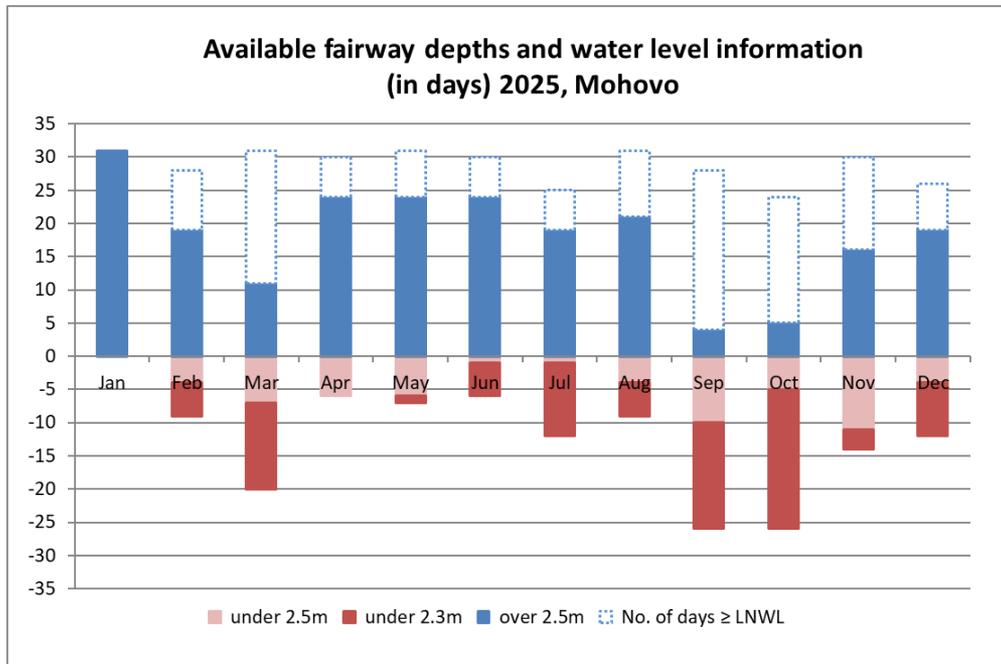
Hungarian sector of the Danube equally limiting in 2025, with 223 days below 2.5m fairway depth.



- 102 surveying tours
- multiple marking tours weekly
- 11.775 m<sup>3</sup> dredged in the common SK-HU border section
- Definition of “deep channel ongoing” (under lead of Danube Commission)

## Central Danube - Croatia

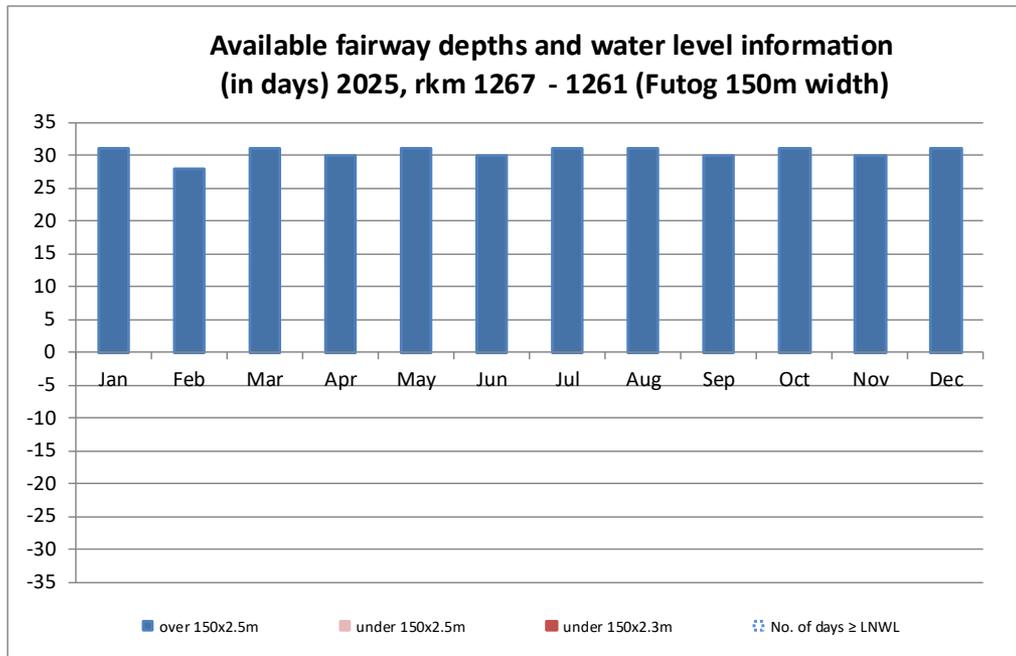
Mohovo with a 148 days below 2.5 m fairway depth (for full fairway width of 100m) - also suffering from below average discharge.



- 10 surveying tours (Danube)
- 69 marking tours
- dredging on Sava and Drava 78.555 m<sup>3</sup>
- No dredging on Danube in 2025
- Difficulties during LNWL for navigation on Sava – dredging in two locations

# Central Danube - Serbia

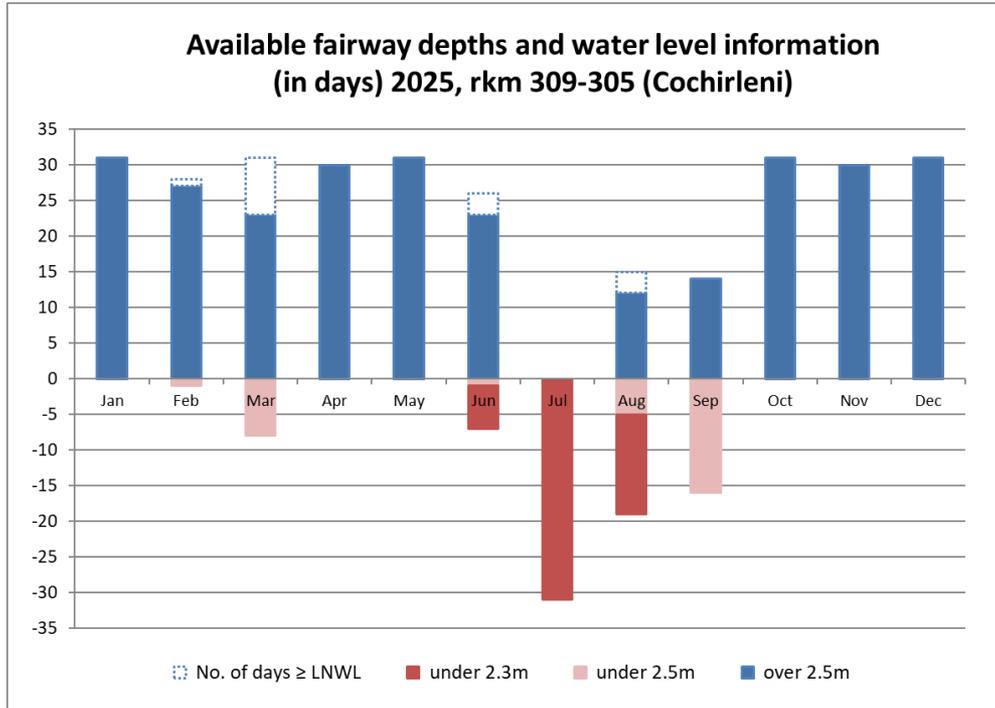
**Fairway availability at the critical section Futog through adaptive management, including reducing the width to 150 m.**



- 58 surveying tours (Danube)
- 154 marking tours
- 73 days below LNWL – navigational limitations in July
- Fairway availability achieved through
  - Temporary width reduction
  - Fairway relocations and route adjustments
- No emergency dredging works, only regular maintenance

## Lower Danube - Romania

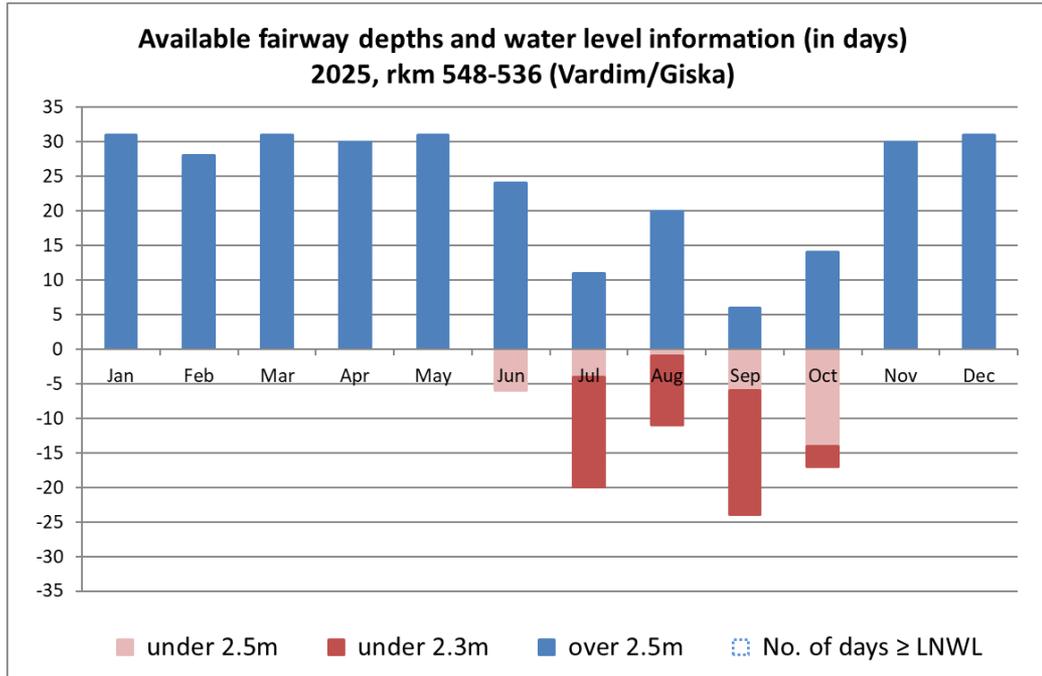
Lower Danube faced extreme low water in the summer months. 102 days below LNWL at gauge Cernavoda.



- AFDJ issued warning in June to all traffic participants regarding extensive low water
- 242 surveying tours (entire sector)
- 65 marking tours
- Dredging interventions
  - river Danube: 873.264 m<sup>3</sup>
  - maritime D.: 115.257 m<sup>3</sup>
- Dredging framework contracts valid until end of 2026 with a volume of 900.000 m<sup>3</sup>/year

# Lower Danube - Bulgaria

Challenges also during summer due to extreme low water.



- 73 surveying tours
- 13 changes of the fairway trajectory
- Total dredged quantity of 243.174 m<sup>3</sup> in 2025 at Batin, Belene and Somovit
- Draught restrictions temporarily to 2,2 or 2,3 m
- Dangerous situations due to some vessels ignoring the restrictions
- dredging framework contract until 2028
- All days under 2,5 m coincide with water level ≤ LNWL



# INVITATION

viadonau

## Danube Business Talks 2026

11 June 2026, Vienna - Austria

### Topics:

- *Smart Waterways*: Innovation & Sustainability
- *Competitive Waterways*: Economy & Logistics
- *Resilient Waterways*: Military Mobility & Waterway Infrastructure

Navigating Change –  
Towards a Sustainable Future

Registration Opening: 16 March

Venue: Vienna, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber

Target Groups: Representatives from IWT, logistics, industry, national and european policy



## Austria

 Federal Ministry  
Innovation, Mobility  
and Infrastructure  
Republic of Austria

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