

Promoting Innovation in the Inland Waterway Transport Sector



PROMINENT is a multiannual research and implementation project for the inland navigation industry which started on 1st of May 2015 and will be active until 30th of April 2018. The project focusses on assessing, testing and facilitating economically viable, safe and green alternative energy concepts and technologies for the European inland navigation industry. The European Commission supports the project consortium with 6.3 million EUR over a period of three years by means of the Horizon 2020 program, the research and innovation program of the European Commission. PROMINENT is the lead project for greening the European IWT fleet implementing these key objectives of the European IWT action program NAIADES II. It delivers concepts for mass introduction such as LNG, emission after-treatment of diesel-engines, energy-efficient navigation, right sizing of engines and hybrid concepts together with real-life pilot concepts. As PROMINENT shall prepare the roll out of greening technologies it provides financial analyses for operators as well as policy recommendations comprising procedures for certification and monitoring of stringent emission limits. Digital educational and training tools will support the roll-out preparation of the identified innovations.

Main activities

- Identify and select the best available greening technologies and concepts
- Develop standardized solutions and concepts for greening technologies in order to enable their mass implementation
- Evaluate options for certification procedures for new engines and retrofit solutions for vessel operators to comply with stricter emission limits
- Assess the use of ship handling simulators for education, training and examination purposes and develop digital tools for cargo handling, ship stability and energy-efficiency navigation; development of prototypes of e-DRB (Service Record Book) and e-Logbook
- Harmonization and modernization of professional qualifications and stimulation of further integration of IWT into sustainable transport chains
- Execution of pilot deployments in order to test, validate and demonstrate the key approaches and technologies for greening the fleet and for energy saving navigation
- Develop a key user buy-in plan as well as policy recommendations and a draft implementation roadmap in order to support the mass implementation of alternative fuels technologies and concepts



Partnership

STC-Group – Project Coordinator (NL); TÜV Nord (DE); Navrom SA (RO); Wärtsilä (NL); viadonau (AT); University of Craiova (NL); Pro Danube Management GmbH (AT); Multronic BV (BL); BAW (DE); TNO (NL); ADS van Stigt (NL); Panteia BV (NL); University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria (AT); DST (DE); SGS (NL); Ecorys (NL); EICB (NL).

Contact

Pro Danube Management GmbH || Handelskai 265, 1020, Vienna, Austria || www.prodanube.eu
Robert Rafael, Senior Project Manager || rafael@prodanube.eu
www.prominent-iwt.eu

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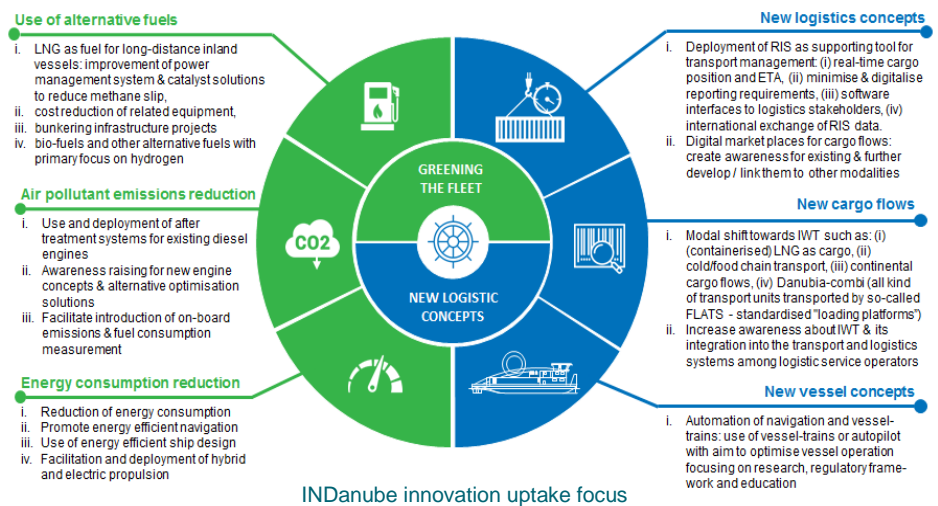


INDanube – Centre for Innovation Transfer in the Danube Region



INDanube, founded in January 2016 as one of the innovation centres of the [European Inland Barging Innovation Platform \(www.eibip.eu\)](http://www.eibip.eu), plays an important role as facilitator and promoter of innovation in inland waterway transport (IWT) on the Danube and its navigable tributaries. The EIBIP network and three new regional Innovation Transfer Centres in Germany (D-ZIB), France (BATELIA) and the Danube region (INDanube) were established with the start-up support from EC/DG MOVE to promote the uptake of innovation by the inland waterborne transport sector.

INDanube conducts promotion and awareness activities to ensure knowledge transfer in the Danube region & supports implementation of concrete projects to facilitate innovation up-take by the IWT sector, specifically by vessel operators and their partners along logistics value chains. In particular, fuel efficiency, reduction of emissions and unexploited potential market share are key areas where more innovation can lead to improvements.



Innovations through projects & assistance

INDanube facilitated projects like DAPhNE - Danube Ports Network, DANTE - Improving administrative procedures & processes for Danube IWT, or project proposal GRENDDEL aiming at the modernisation of Danube vessels addressing both the greening and digitalisation topics of the sector. INDanube furthermore assisted stakeholders in preparing projects targeting the greening & innovations such as:

- LNG/CNG infrastructure in Slovakia to serve IWT and road transport users, including a liquefaction unit
- LNG infrastructure initiative in Upper Austria investing into the LNG road infrastructure and vehicles as well as LNG terminal / bunkering station in the port of Linz or Enns
- LNG terminal and bunkering stations in Galati and Constanta (Romania) targeting along the infrastructure as well the construction of LNG-fuelled pushers and LNG-fuelled self-propelled inland vessels
- Polish fleet modernisation initiative to retrofit vessels making use of LNG
- Green waterborne public transport in Bratislava (Slovakia) and neighbouring cities/villages along the Danube to solve heavy traffic problems of commuters

Regional partners

In order to reach key stakeholders in the region four regional organisations support INDanube: (1) Waterborne transport development agency in Slovakia, (2) National Association of Radio Distress-Signalling and Infocommunications (RSOE) in Hungary, (3) Pro Danube Romania and (4) Pro Danube Serbia – all acting as facilitators and promoters of innovation in IWT in their regions.

Contact

Pro Danube Management GmbH || Handelskai 265, 1020, Vienna, Austria || www.prodanube.eu
 Lucia Karpatyova, Senior Project Manager || karpatyova@prodanube.eu
www.indanube.eu || office@indanube.eu