

ENERGY BARGE

Newsletter #10



Welcome to the 10th newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project!

In this issue we outline the findings and conclusions drawn from interviews with potential users of Danube logistics from the bioenergy industry. The logistics requirements of raw materials, intermediates and end products within bioenergy supply chains were compiled by the project partners in an assessment report.

Existing potentials and needed investments in the Danube logistics sector were indentified. In addition, a summary of the ENERGY BARGE report about barriers and bottlenecks regarding green biomass logistics is part of this newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading!
The team of ENERGY BARGE



The partners

There are 15 partners involved in the project from 7 countries:

7 partners from the biomass/bioenergy sector

6 partners from the logistics sector including 5 ports

3 partners from the field of research that provide either special knowledge needed for the implementation of the project (spatial modelling) or who have special knowledge and networks in their regions (biofuels and biomass).



Analysis of logistic requirements for the bioenergy industry

Objective

To support the integration of inland waterway transport into supply chains of the biomass and bioenergy sector, the ENERGY BARGE project collected and analysed the requirements of potential customers of Danube logistics services. Desk research, evaluation of existing studies and carrying out around 40 interviews with experts from five Danube countries, provided the basis for an assessment report. The report also covers existing potentials and needed investments. The final results of the analysis were clustered according to types of biomass and products as well as to the logistics processes (1) transport, (2) transshipment and (3) storage.

As a result of this analysis, the general logistics requirements of the bioenergy industry can be summarised as follows:

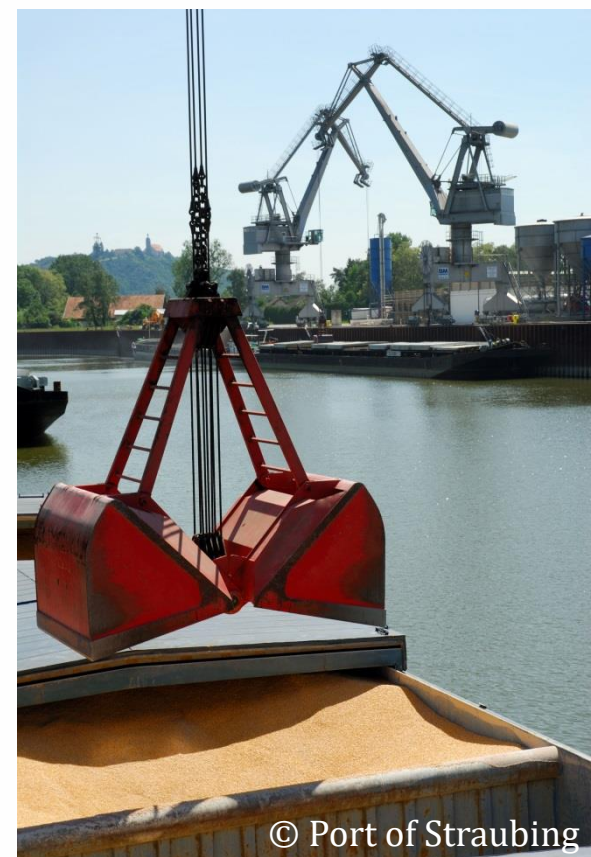
- Reliable waterway infrastructure
- Efficient infra- and superstructure in the Danube ports (in terms of quantity and quality)
- Time-efficient and flexible administrative processes
- Flexible logistics concepts integrating Danube logistics services

In addition to these requirements, which are also relevant for customers of Danube logistics services from other economic sectors, cargo-specific requirements were collected and analysed for specific types of biomass goods that are suitable to be transported via inland waterways.

Conclusion

The assessment carried out by the ENERGY BARGE partners shows that bio-based raw materials and bioenergy products are highly suitable for being transported on the Danube waterway due to the high level of consistence between logistics requirements of the bioenergy industry and the service portfolio of the Danube logistics sector. The conducted expert discussions showed however that sufficiently large transport volumes and company locations in the vicinity of the Danube (at least one node of the transport route) are a prerequisite to facilitate a modal shift towards inland waterway transport.

The vessels currently deployed along the Danube are more than suitable to facilitate the transport of raw materials, intermediates and end products. Many Danube ports (especially along the Upper Danube) currently already dispose of suitable handling equipment and storage facilities to serve the needs of the biomass and bioenergy industry.



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Outlook

In case that new equipment is needed at a particular location, the port or terminal operator can build its investment decision on good practice examples existing elsewhere. To this end ENERGY BARGE can build a platform for this know-how exchange and also integrate findings derived from an exchange workshop with the ports of Bamberg and Aschaffenburg in Germany.

For the detailed report please have a look [here](#).



The ENERGY BARGE team at the exchange workshop in Bamberg, Germany

Professional conference and spring tractor movement at NARIC's Institute of Agricultural Engineering

The ENERGY BARGE project partner NARIC, respectively their Institute of Agricultural Engineering, organised a conference on "Modern Drying, Storage, Processing and Measurement Technologies of Grain Products" on 26 April 2018. Participants in the event gained insights into the new development potential of grain dryers, got to know the most advanced seed treatment technologies and their machines as well as the latest developments in cereal quality testing instruments. In addition to the presentations, a product presentation related to this topic has also taken place.

The conference was opened by Dr. Zsolt Feldman, Deputy Secretary of State for Agricultural Economy (Ministry of Agriculture). After the professional presentations, the spring tractor movement took place in the yard of the Institute, where participants were invited for a test drive with the HSCS G35 hot-bulb tractor, which was manufactured in 1938.



HSCS G35 hot-bulb tractor

Challenges for green bioenergy logistics in the Danube region

The ENERGY BARGE project targets to foster port locations as biomass and bioenergy logistics hubs, where actors along the value and supply chains come together, supported by policy and administrative actors that promote this concept. To be able to be competitive in this economic field it is important that port locations improve the conditions on site, which includes e.g. infrastructure, market orientation, digitalisation, transport technologies as well as cargo options in the inland waterway sector. Technological modernisation of handling equipment and adaptation of storage capacities in order to be able to handle new cargo types will foster a modal shift towards inland waterway transport.

An ideally continuous navigability of the Danube is an essential aspect in reaching the target of increasing volumes of biomass transports on the river. The available fairway depth is an important economic factor for the cargo shipping business as it determines the maximum cargo load of the inland vessels. A standardisation of the maintenance of fairway conditions in all ten Danube riparian countries, based on a common level of service, constitutes a major contribution to shift biomass transports towards the Danube waterway. The EU Strategy for the Danube region (EUSDR) provides a comprehensive framework in order to ensure the simplification, harmonisation and digitalisation of the legislative and administrative framework on international level including border controls at the Schengen borders along the Danube.

In some Danube riparian states, e.g. Bulgaria, good transport connections between ports and hinterland areas need to be expanded. To improve intermodal transport services it is important, besides the focus on the conditions of the inland waterways, to consider also the conditions of the railroad and road systems as those are essential for biomass transports to and from the surrounding areas of the ports.

For the detailed report please have a look [here](#).



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Get to know the ENERGY BARGE partners!



**Slovenská plavba
a prístavy a.s.**

Slovenská plavba a prístavy a.s. (hereinafter SPaP a.s.) is the leading Slovak company dealing with transport, transshipment and warehousing of goods, forwarding services, repairs and reconstructions of vessels. The company offers logistic services related to transport of all kinds of goods on the Danube as well as on the entire network of European waterways from the North Sea to the Black Sea territory. SPaP a.s. operates in two ports, port of Komárno and port of Bratislava.

SPaP a.s. offers transport services on inland waterways and transport activities are as follows: transport of bulk cargo, general cargo, liquid cargo, special transports and towing services. In addition, SPaP a.s. offer services of its trimodal container terminal and complete customs declaration.

The future of the company is determined by the aim to establish a logistic centre for transshipment, transport and warehousing. The strategy of the company is to continue the efforts of raising the proportion of added value products and satisfying of strategic and permanent customers by means of reliable services.

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Danube Transnational Programme

ENERGY BARGE

Building a Green Energy & Logistics Belt

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