

ENERGY BARGE

Newsletter #17



Welcome to the 17th newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project!

The consortium recently published a concise and practice-oriented handbook about framework conditions for Danube logistics services related to the transport, handling and storage of biomass.

A comprehensive and reliable inventory of Danube logistics providers that are specialised on logistics requirements of the biomass and bioenergy industry has been compiled to support potential users of the Danube waterway in planning concrete transports.

In addition, our partners from BioCampus Straubing GmbH report about their site visit at the Danube Port Enns in Austria.

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).



Bioenergy meets Danube logistics – Handbook published!

Connecting ten riparian countries, the Danube functions as a high-performance logistics axis, offering a natural infrastructure for inland waterway transport with specific relevance for the transport of bulk cargo. Already today, agricultural and forestry products account for approx. 25% of the total volume of goods (approx. 40 million tons/year) transported along the Danube.

Ports and transshipment sites along the river function as hubs for handling, storage and processing. With the biobased economy gaining momentum in many parts over Europe, another growth market opens up for both the Danube region's biomass industry as well as for the Danube logistics sector. Especially for biobased raw materials with the majority being categorised as bulk cargo in transport terms, Danube logistics can offer a broad set of facilities and services.



Figure 1: Handbook for a modal shift towards inland waterway transport.

To better tap both the biomass and the logistics potentials of the Danube region in a sustainable manner, the ENERGY BARGE consortium develops a set of tools that inform private and public actors along the potential supply chains and across country borders, give them practical guidance for business development and bring them together.

Eventually, the entire Danube region shall profit from the more widespread and sustainable utilisation of its transnational, yet domestic biomass resources. The *handbook for a modal shift towards inland waterway transport* is one of these tools. It is designed for actors along the biomass and bioenergy supply chains which would like to have a “first peak” into the world of Danube navigation and what it has to offer.

Based on expert discussions with relevant shipping companies, port operators and logistics service providers from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary and Slovakia, the handbook provides practical information for cargo owners. The focus is on technical and administrative framework conditions for waterway transport, handling and storage of different types of bio-based cargo. The handbook can be accessed via this [link](#).

Inventory of Danube logistics services for transport, handling & storage of biomass

To support the development of a better connected, interoperable and environmentally friendly transport system for bioenergy logistics, ENERGY BARGE identified logistics service providers, which are suitable for the transport, transshipment and storage of biomass along the Danube. A comprehensive list of Danube logistics service providers that are specialised on logistics requirements of the biomass and bioenergy industry supports potential users of the Danube waterway in planning concrete transport. The inventory is available on the [ENERGY BARGE website](#).

The overall objective of this list is to enable an easy access to information on appropriate port and terminal operators as well as on shipping companies and ship brokers. By providing contact data of suitable service providers (website), the effort for potential customers of Danube logistics is kept on a minimum. The listed stakeholders are invited to join the modal shift platform for bioenergy logistics with a company profile (Figure 2).

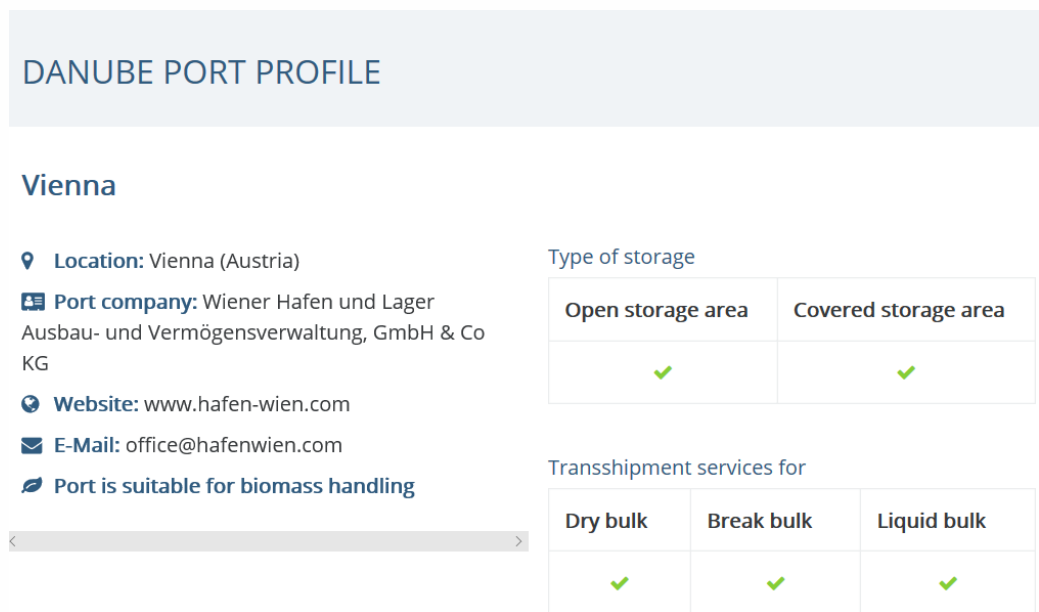


Figure 2: Example of a company profile at the modal shift platform (www.energy-barge.eu).

The overall inventory includes two inventory lists: The inventory of shipping companies and ship brokers, currently comprising 56 companies, is based on predefined criteria regarding the transport of biomass by inland vessels. These logistics requirements focus on the ability to ship cargo such as dry, break and liquid bulk used for bioenergy production. Experiences in biomass transports as well as available certificates for biomass transports such as the GMP+ (Good Manufacturing Practice) certificate were also important selection criteria.

The inventory of port and terminal operators, covering 68 companies in total, is based on requirements for the handling and storage of biomass in Danube ports or at transshipment sites. An available certificate in handling and storage of biomass was regarded as substantial quality feature for a well-suited port and transshipment site. The availability of facilities such as covered storage options, sufficient storage capacity (extensive areas, e.g. for round wood) and interim storage possibilities are further decisive features for potential customers of port services from the bioenergy industry.

Port of Straubing visiting Danube Port Enns in Austria

In the context of an annual company excursion, the staff of the ENERGY BARGE partners Port of Straubing and its daughter company, the BioCampus Straubing GmbH, visited the Port of Enns in Austria (Figure 3 & 4).



Figure 3 & 4: Port of Enns.

During a 3-hour guided tour with the port master, the staff experienced a high-performing inland port with a high potential for expansion as well as sophisticated IT infrastructure allowing for modern and save logistics procedures.

The large sawmill of the company Donausäge Rumplmayr GmbH, which uses the Danube as an important logistics component, was particularly impressive to the visitors. Moreover, the port management has designed an extraordinary way to display different cargo types that Danube logistics can handle: On an old motor vessel, the deck has been remodelled into compartments in which the different cargo types are presented (Figure 5).

Accompanying information boards provide details about the cargo, its utilisation and density, e.g. about wood chips for power generation or rape seed for fuel production (Figure 6).



Figure 5 & 6: Different cargo types presented in an old motor vessel (left); Information boards provide details about the cargo (right).

Get to know the ENERGY BARGE partners!



The International Centre for Applied Research and Sustainable Technology (ICARST) is an international non-profit research organisation based in Bratislava, Slovakia. It was established in 2011 with a mandate to foster research and development as well as national and international cooperation in the areas of applied research and sustainable technology. ICARST offers assistance and partnership for R&D projects, educational and knowledge dissemination projects. The center draws upon the expertise and long-standing experience of its founding members in research and international collaboration in the fields of chemistry, biotechnology, material science and life sciences.

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ENERGY BARGE

Building a Green Energy & Logistics Belt

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