

# ENERGY BARGE

## Newsletter #25



Welcome to the 25<sup>th</sup> newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project!

Fostering sustainable usage of biomass for energy production in the Danube region and to increase the share of environmentally friendly biomass-transport on the Danube are the main concerns of the ENERGY BARGE project.

On 23 May 2019, ENERGY BARGE held its final conference in Budapest. The consortium presented the main outcomes of the project and discussed with the audience how the measures implemented in the last 2.5 years might find its way into transnational policies, e.g. the Actional Plan of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, which will be revised during the upcoming months.

In addition, we look back on the series of five business-to-business meetings that were conducted successfully during the latest project period.

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).





## Final ENERGY BARGE conference

On 23 May 2019, more than 60 international experts in bioenergy and multimodal logistics participated at the final conference of the ENERGY BARGE project in Budapest. The focus of the event was laid on the set of tools that were elaborated by the project consortium during the last 2.5 years to foster a sustainable use of biomass for energetic purposes and encourage a modal shift by increasing the share of biomass transports on the Danube.



In his keynote address, Péter Kaderják, Hungarian Minister of State for Energy Affairs and Climate Policy, spoke about the importance to exploit the potential for green energy in the form of biomass in the Danube region in a sustainable way, thereby increasing energy security and efficiency in the Danube countries. The first session of the conference focussed on the further development of inland waterways and actions to increase cargo transport on the Danube and how the EU Strategy for the Danube region supports the goals related to sustainable energy sources and how the measures implemented in ENERGY BARGE fit into the transnational policy objectives.



Five Danube ports (MAHART-Freeport Budapest, Port of Straubing-Sand, Port of Vienna, Port of Vukovar, Slovak Shipping and Ports JSC) are part of the project consortium. In the frame of the ENERGY BARGE project, the ports elaborated feasibility studies to become biomass hubs as part of a transnational network along the Danube. The results were presented by port representatives during the afternoon session. Each port defined specific investment projects taking into consideration market, technology and financial aspects. As a result from the pre-feasibility study, Slovak Shipping and Ports JSC announced to establish a new biomass transshipment and storage facility in the port of Bratislava with a total investment of 250,000 €.





Source: MAHART-Freeport



Source: MAHART-Freeport

A workshop regarding the connection of ports/multimodal hubs with the biomass sector concluded the final ENERGY BARGE conference. Three discussion groups targeted the topics “Placement of biomass industry in ports”, “Future development of Danube ports” and “Derivation of policy recommendations for the Danube region”. Users and providers of inland waterway logistics must work together on innovative, multimodal solutions and speak with one voice when it comes to improving the infrastructural prerequisites and to unify customs regulations at the national borders. In addition, it will be important to make the logistics sector more attractive for young professionals since there is already a shortage of qualified personnel, which will become an even more serious issue in the next years due to the age structure in this sector.

## Successful conclusion of the “Bioenergy meets Danube logistics” meeting series

Business-to-business (B2B) meetings for the use of synergies between the biomass/bioenergy sector and the Danube logistics sector are an essential element of the ENERGY BARGE project, offering a neutral platform for initiation of new transports on inland waterways.

Using the motto “The Danube – A Stream of Energy”, viadonau and the Port of Vienna organised the first out of five regional business-to-business meetings in the framework of the Danube Business Talks in October 2018. The event successfully connected Danube logistics companies and the bioenergy and biomass sector. With speakers from the companies AGRANA, Münzer Bioindustrie, Bulmarket and the Port of Rotterdam, the event featured key companies in the field of European biomass logistics. The B2B matchmaking event of this prelude also offered a favourable framework for strengthening the Danube as a logistics axis for biobased cargo.



Source: viadonau



Source: viadonau



After another opportunity for a B2B event at the end of 2018 in Bratislava, organised by Slovak Shipping and Ports JSC, the MAHART-Freeport Budapest hosted the third stakeholder conference under the motto “DanuBeGreen” in January 2019. A port visit and fruitful B2B meetings raised expectations for the next event, to be held in Vukovar, Croatia.

The organisers, Croatian Wood Cluster and Port Authority Vukovar, surpassed the expectations of the participants from the logistics and biomass sector coming from all over Croatia and the Danube region by including site visits to Spačva d.d., one of the largest parquet and veneer producers in Croatia, and the Port of Vukovar in the conference programme.



Source: MAHART-Freeport, Zoltan Iró



Source: Port Authority Vukovar



Source: MAHART-Freeport, Zoltan Iró

The final B2B event at end of March 2019, hosted by BioCampus Straubing GmbH, offered a unique opportunity to round up the B2B meeting series. It featured extraordinary speakers, site visits to key companies in the port area and constructive bilateral business meetings.

In total, 200 participants visited the B2B meetings that were organised in five countries. This number confirms the need for neutral cooperation platforms in the field of Danube logistics to initiate new inland waterway transports and to promote a modal shift towards the Danube waterway. Thus, the ENERGY BARGE project partner viadonau already announced to foster B2B meetings in the future and extend this proven concept to other cargo groups together with international partners.

## Agreement on the development of bioenergy production

A strategic cooperation agreement has been signed for a long-term development of biomass-based energy production between the Hungarian ENERGY BARGE project partner National Agricultural Research and Innovation Center (NARIC), the Hungarian Electrical Works Private Limited Company (MVM), the National Public Utilities Co. Ltd. (NKM), the National Association of Hungarian Farmers' Circles and Farmers Cooperatives (MAGOSZ) and the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture (NAK).

Under the agreement, the modernisation and integration of existing supply chains are especially important to the parties. The contract provides a framework for cooperation in energy and other research and development projects related to agriculture: sharing of knowledge and information, joint thinking in energy services as well as initiating joint research projects.

## Bioenergy meets Danube logistics – Handbook published

The *handbook for a modal shift towards inland waterway transport* 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](#).



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by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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