

Output Factsheet

Output title: 4.3. Exchange and workshops on logistics requirements

Summary of the output (max. 2500 characters)

In order to facilitate know-how exchange and cross-fertilisation regarding logistic requirements of the bioenergy industry, ENERGY BARGE organised an exchange workshop with the ports of Aschaffenburg and Bamberg to define benchmarks and success factors for the handling and storage of biomass. On 29 and 30 May 2017, the involved partners BE2020, VIA, PoVi, MAHART, BCG and PoVu organised a port visit to the bayernhafen site in Bamberg. Invited by the contacted port management, the team also visited the bayernhafen site in Aschaffenburg including the bioenergy plant of the Bioenergie Aschaffenburg GmbH. Even though the two sites in Bamberg and Aschaffenburg follow different strategies, both proved to be best practices. One determined success factor is the strategic localisation of companies with synergies in the port area creating a closed loop on biomass and energy production with short transport routes.

Additionally, four transnational workshops in the frame of the WP4 coordination meetings were executed. The aim of the transnational learning interactions was to establish a common understanding of Danube navigation and the activities (such as regional B2B meetings) in WP4. A manual incl. a checklist on the organisation of B2B meetings was presented and provided to all project partners. VIA prepared the documentation (PowerPoint presentations) for the workshops in an easy-to-understand manner and provided all partners with the information after the events. The four transnational workshops took place in

- Linz, AT, on 1 March 2017
- Bucharest, RO, on 16 June 2018
- Budapest, HU, on 29 January 2019
- Budapest, HU, on 22 May 2019

The findings and conclusions drawn from the international know-how exchange were integrated in the overall assessment report of logistic requirements for raw materials, intermediates and end products within bioenergy supply chains (D 4.3.2).

Contribution to the project and Programme objectives (max. 1500 characters)

To support the development of a better connected, interoperable and environmentally friendly transport system for biomass as one of the main objectives of the Danube Transnational Programme, the integration of international expertise at an early stage of the project was needed, thus setting the knowledge foundation for the successful implementation of the project.

The characteristics of the surrounding area of the “Good Practice” locations were comparable with those of the Danube ports that were involved in the ENERGY BARGE project. The exchange with representatives of these two important river port locations for biomass logistics initiated a first know-how transfer to the Danube region. It was helpful to evaluate first the benchmarks and success factors regarding biomass logistics in ports and secondly, shortcomings and

barriers regarding investments, services and information needs of potential customers to be addressed by the project in following activities.

The transnational workshops examined dedicated topics incl. basic IWT knowledge such as navigability of the Danube, vessel types operating in the Danube region, transport of biomass on the Danube etc. Furthermore, detailed information on logistic requirements for the transport of biomass on the Danube was discussed and the concept of regional B2B meetings was introduced. The learning sessions resulted in a joint understanding of logistic requirements enabling a smooth implementation of project activities.

Transnational impact (max. 1500 characters)

The project partners from BE2020, VIA, PoVi, MAHART, BCG and PoVu organised and participated at the transnational exchange with the “Good Practice” ports in Western Europe, namely in Bamberg and Aschaffenburg in Germany. All project partners from the Danube logistic sector participated in the transnational workshops, which not only aimed at building up a common understanding of Danube logistics and strengthen the expertise regarding biomass logistics but also as source of inspiration for future activities.

The high attractiveness of the two ports results from the located network of companies. The Port of Aschaffenburg is the biggest industrial area in the Bavarian Rhine-Main area. The transnational workshops focused on topics with regards to transports of agricultural and forestry biomass covering the entire Rhine-Main-Danube axis, widening the geographical focus of the project.

The learnings from the transnational workshop were directly transferred to the set-up of the regional B2B events organised by VIA in Austria, SPaP in Slovakia, MAHART in Hungary, PoVu in Croatia and BCG in Germany.

Contribution to EUSDR actions and/or targets (max. 1500 characters)

The exchange and transnational workshops on logistic requirements contribute to the implementation of the actions plans elaborated in Priority Area (PA) 2 “Energy” and PA 1a “Inland waterways” of the EUSDR. The information and knowledge exchange support the achievement of the targets set by PA 1a such as “Increase the cargo transport on the river by 20% by 2020 compared to 2010” and the “Danube Region Biomass Action Plan” by PA 2, which aims at supporting energy systems (energy infrastructure and energy markets) and promote energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

In order to achieve the goals as set by the EUSDR, it is necessary to continuously expand and exchange know-how within the project consortium but also learn from existing “Good Practices” in the entire Rhine-Main-Danube region. Furthermore, it is necessary to integrate (potential) customers of inland waterway transport services and logistic service providers and facilitate know-how exchange between the supply and demand sides in the field of Danube logistics to use the gained knowledge for further development of transport solutions.

Performed testing, if applicable (max. 1000 characters)

The transnational workshops were designed in cooperation with the Danube logistic partners which were included in the selection of relevant and useful topics resulting in more targeted and custom-tailored learning interactions. Every transnational workshop was evaluated to be further improved and upgraded for the upcoming workshops. The documentation on the

transnational workshops was also improved by means of compiling minutes and summaries as an additional asset to presentations.

Integration and use of the output by the target group (max. 2000 characters)

The gained knowledge and information were integrated in the regional B2B meetings with almost 200 participants in total from 13 countries, which aimed at connecting the biomass/bioenergy and the Danube logistics sector. During the regional B2B meetings a validation of logistic requirements that were identified and elaborated in the frame of Deliverable 4.1.3 was performed. In total, 37 interviews with stakeholders from the biomass/bioenergy and Danube logistics sector were conducted and the results were integrated to improve the preparation of following B2B meetings.

The project partners used the gained knowledge from the exchange with external stakeholders and the transnational workshops in their regular communication activities.

Geographical coverage and transferability (max. 1500 characters)

During the conceptualisation and preparation of the transnational workshops, special attention was given to integrate aspects, which are related not only to the Danube region but also covering the Rhine-Main-Danube axis. The aim was to offer information / data / knowledge providing a broad picture of the entire waterway network which connects the ports in Western Europe and the Black Sea. This emphasises the importance of “cross-border” and “cross-region” approaches when looking for possibilities to increase transports on the waterways.

The exchange workshop took place in Bavaria, however there are numerous further “Good Practice” ports in Europe, which could be considered and be used for the learnings of the project partners from the Danube logistics sector. The most important finding is that synergies between the companies located in the port area as well as their value chains are essential. The port management must be actively involved in the development of new value chains by attracting new companies to settle in the port and providing favourable conditions for companies from the agricultural sector. Also, there is a marketing and image effect visible to such a coherently managed development strategy that can result in a competitive advantage. These findings are transferable to every single Danube port.

In order to allow for coherent transferability and replicability, the documentation on all learning interactions is distributed among the project partners.

Durability (max. 1500 characters)

The learnings from the exchange workshop and the transnational workshops will be sustained after finalisation of the project. The expertise exchange that has been conducted in the frame of the ENERGY BARGE project will be used for the development of new business cases in the participating Danube ports. In this way, concrete investments and development projects at the interface between biomass/bioenergy and Danube logistics will be developed in the future. Additionally, the project partners confirmed that the findings will support them in developing and offering cooperation business platforms for cargo owners and other Danube logistics stakeholders.

Synergies with other projects/ initiatives and / or alignment with current EU policies/ directives/ regulations, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

The potential users of Danube logistics, e.g. SMEs and enterprises in the field of bioenergy, require reliable data and easily accessible information related to Danube navigation (e.g. data on fairway conditions, service providers). These requirements will be met by the service portfolio of the Danube Logistics Promotion Centres, which were set up in the project *Danube SKILLS*. ENERGY BARGE consortium members actively promoted links between the mentioned projects in this section via mutual attendance of relevant events and an exchange of expertise.

The Danube waterway infrastructure is addressed in the project *Danube STREAM* and the Connecting Europe Facility-project *FAIRway Danube* aiming at stable fairway conditions along the Danube. Predictable fairway conditions, reached through a proactive maintenance strategy of waterway management authorities, are a prerequisite for a modal shift of biomass transports towards the Danube.

Potential synergies with the project *DBS Gateway Region*, which focuses on hinterland transport development, are also exploited in terms of fostering an increase of freight transport on inland waterways. The project *DANTE* aims at eliminating administrative barriers for IWT on the Danube as a joint initiative of the private sector and national public authorities. Fewer administrative barriers will lead to a faster, better predictable and more cost-efficient operation of biomass transports along the Danube.

Output integration in the current political/ economic/ social/ technological/ environmental/ legal/ regulatory framework (max. 2000 characters)

The output will exploit its potential under the action plans that are stated in the ministerial conclusions on effective waterway infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance on the Danube that were recently signed by the Danube transport ministers¹. If this initiative, aiming at creating a more reliable waterway infrastructure, will be successful, it will be an important task to promote the Danube waterway to the industry. ENERGY BARGE offers a contribution to attracting new users from the biomass/bioenergy sector to the Danube logistics sector as it could offer new possibilities for the transport of raw materials and end products.

Output 4.3 can be considered as an essential contribution to the Action Programme of the European Commission NAIADES II, which addresses the integration of IWT into multimodal logistics chains.

In the light of the RED II, the Paris Agreement, the recent review of the EU's Bioeconomy Strategy and related strategic frameworks, a further EU-wide increased utilisation of biobased feedstock for energetic and chemical material purposes is expected. In order to make this development beneficial for the overall EU and global climate goals, biobased value chains have to be sustainable, which also includes sustainable transport solutions.

The Danube region needs to be prepared to be an active player in this development in terms of providing sustainable feedstock, processes, products and transport infrastructure as well as informed market actors. ENERGY BARGE provides solutions and expert information for this approach, e.g. the handbook for a shift towards inland waterway transport and the Modal Shift Platform that will be accessible online for at least three years beyond the project's lifetime.

¹ [https://www.danube-navigation.eu/uploads/files/2018-12-03_Danube_Ministerial_conclusions_signed\(1\).pdf](https://www.danube-navigation.eu/uploads/files/2018-12-03_Danube_Ministerial_conclusions_signed(1).pdf) [Accessed 28 June 2019].