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Danube Transnational Programme DIONYSUS

**Integrating Danube Region into Smart & Sustainable
Multi-modal & Intermodal Transport Chains**

Yearly Activity Report 2022

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2 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
AF	Application Form
DAPhNE	Danube Ports Network Project (2017-2019)
DPN	Danube Ports Network
DG MOVE	Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
DG REGIO	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
DR	Danube Region
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission
EUSDR	EU Strategy for the Danube Region
EHOO	Ennshafen Port
IWT	Inland Waterway Transport
MPAC	Maritime Ports Administration Constanta
PA	Priority Area
PA 1A	Priority Area Waterways Mobility
PDM	Pro Danube Management GmbH
RP	Reporting Period

3 Introduction

Elaborated by PDM, the core objective of the **Yearly Activity Report 2022** is to provide a comprehensive overview on the capitalisation activities carried out during calendar year 2022 covering RP 4 and RP 5 of the DIONYSUS project in line with the [Capitalisation Strategy](#). The strategy proposes a detailed insight into the activities meant to foster the creation of knowledge inside the DIONYSUS project as well as to facilitate its transfer towards external stakeholders. The key instrument for the implementation of the Capitalisation Strategy is the Danube Ports Network (DPN), a platform launched in the framework of the [DAPhNE](#) project to facilitate cooperation between Danube inland and maritime ports. Within DIONYSUS, capitalisation is understood way more than a mere dissemination of project activities, events and milestones. And this is where the DPN decisively steps in, facilitating project capitalisation and knowledge-transfer activities, acting at the same time as an information provider and as an instrument to promote Danube port's needs at EU level in ongoing port policy related discussions.

As foreseen by the guidelines of the Capitalisation Strategy, this year's report – the last one to be elaborated in the frame of the project – consists of a detailed overview of all the activities carried out under the umbrella or with the support of the Danube Ports Network (DPN). High on the agenda is the soon to be organised Danube Ports Day 2022, co-organised by MPAC and PDM, supported by the DPN and organised in Constanta on 3-4 October 2022. This year's event will be preceded by the DPN Coordination Meeting where key aspects of DPN's capitalisation and knowledge-transfer activities will be thoroughly discussed and evaluated.

Important activities were also carried out in terms of data collection and knowledge-transfer. With the **Port Knowledge Center** and the **Digital Initiatives Observatory** becoming fully operational in RP 2 of DIONYSUS, their continuous update with relevant information and data was secured by PDM. Both instruments serve as key facilitators for knowledge-creation and transfer under the umbrella of the DPN.

As foreseen in the AF, strategic coordination meetings with representatives of the European Commission, EUSDR PA 1A & PA 1B, with the RIS COMEX Project Coordinator and relevant transnational sector organisations such as EFIP were high on the agenda. The results of these meetings will all feed in the ongoing proceedings of the DIONYSUS project.

During the last months of the DIONYSUS project, important milestones are expected to be reached in the frame of capitalisation activities: based on the results of the second survey carried out to collect primary data on the impact of COVID-19 on Danube Ports, the second edition of an important publication –the **Danube Ports Handbook** – will be released in October. Equally important are the 3 editions of the DIONYSUS newsletter foreseen to be published in 2022: the first one was already released in June 2022, the second one is foreseen to be published in September 2022, while the last one is due to be elaborated end of December 2022. A factsheet, summarizing the core capitalisation activities will be published in December 2022 as well.

All these milestones – some of them still under preparation while other were already concluded – are thoroughly described within the present Yearly Activity Report.

4 DPN: Knowledge facilitator, creator & information provider

Launched in 2018 in the frame of the DAPhNE project, the Danube Ports Network brings together public and private ports and terminal operators from the Danube Region willing to engage in a long-term, active and coordinated cooperation process benefiting the port industry and regional economy at large. With the support and collective effort of its partners, the Network shall become a long-term, sustainable structure contributing to good port governance and cooperation strengthening in the Danube Region.

Moreover, the DPN emphasizes the importance of sharing knowledge and networking to keep the Danube ports at the forefront of global innovation and as such to adapt them to the needs and requirements of a future-oriented European transport system. Hence, the DPN facilitates diverse forms of cooperation and partnerships between Danube ports, leading to synergies and higher efficiency.

In the framework of the [DIONYSUS](#) project, DPN is at the heart of coordinated project capitalisation tasks that contribute to efficient project implementation, knowledge-creation and transfer, as well as to synergies with EU transport policy initiatives and other port development related projects.

As foreseen by the Capitalisation Strategy, the DPN started to function already in the early stages of DIONYSUS as a key facilitator of synergies across the thematic work packages of the project. Important milestones were already achieved during RP 4, while other are currently under preparation and are expected to make a vital contribution to the successful implementation process of DIONYSUS.

4.1 DPN in RP 4 & RP 5 (January-December 2022). Overview

As foreseen in the AF, the aim of this deliverable is to provide, on a yearly basis, an overview on the capitalisation activities carried out during RP 4 and RP 5 of DIONYSUS. In line with the Capitalisation Strategy, the following figure provides a detailed overview on what was achieved (and/or is expected to be achieved in the next couple of months) in 2022:

Nr	Workpackage / Activities	responsible	contributor	2022													
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
O.T 3.6	Danube Ports Days 2020, 2021, 2022	PDM	EHO, PAV, MPAC														
O.T 3.7	Project Capitalisation Strategy and Evaluation Report	PDM	HFIP, EHO, PGA, Vpas, PAV, USPA, PoVIE, DANLOG/GIFP, MPAC, POB														
D.T3.3.1	Annual Work Plans and Yearly Activity Reports 2020, 2021, 2022	PDM	feedback by all PPs involved in AT3.3;														
	Work Plan and Yearly Activity Report 2020																
	Work Plan and Yearly Activity Report 2021																
	Work Plan and Yearly Activity Report 2022																
D.T3.3.2	Coordination Meetings	PDM supported by MPAC, BRCCI, EHO, PGA	PDR, WPLs, PPs ports contributing to AT 3.3; all PPs in the project may attend														
	Coordination Meeting 2020	PDM & MPAC															
	Coordination Meeting 2021	PDM & BRCCI															
	Coordination Meeting 2022 (2x)	PDM & EHO; PDM & PGA															
D.T3.3.3	Report on EU and Transnational partnerships and coordination activities	PDM	validation by all PPs involved in AT3.3														
	Coordination meeting EUSDR PACs (PA1A, PA1B)																
	RIS Comex Project Coordinator																
	Meeting DG Move, DG Regio																
	Meeting EFIP																
D.T3.3.4	Report knowledge-transfer events, tools and publications	PDM	VPAs, MPAC, PP AT3.3														
	Port Knowledge Center																
	Publications (DPN Handbook incl. port statistics)																
	Capitalisation Factsheets																
	Newsletters																
D.T3.3.5	Strategic roadmap for follow-up activities	PDM	PDR, all WPLs, HFIP, EHO, PGA, Vpas, PAV, USPA, POV, MPAC, UTM, DANLOG														
D.T3.3.6	COVID-19 Impact on Danube Ports	PDM	PDR, IC, Vpas, HFIP, PAV, PGA, POB, UTM, USPA & their related ASPs														
	Comparison 2021-2020																
	Comparison 2022-2021																

Figure 1: DPN in RP 4 & RP 5

As can be concluded from the figure above, both according to Capitalisation Strategy as well as in line with the AF, important milestones have been achieved during RP 4. The Danube Ports Day 2022 undoubtedly represents one of the main highlights in the events calendar of the project. The event, foreseen to be organised early October in Constanta will bring together numerous experts, policymakers, and stakeholder to discuss the challenges of the IWT sector both in terms of the latest geopolitical events (Ukraine-Russia conflict) as well in terms of the adaptation process to the European Green Deal.

The DPN furthermore actively supported both the primary data collection process via the **“Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on Danube Ports”** as well as the elaboration of the second edition of the Danube Ports Handbook which is foreseen to be published in October. The data collected via the survey also fed into **D.T3.3.6 COVID-19 Impact on Danube Ports** which was successfully concluded in June 2022. Likewise important to highlight is the fact that both the Digital Initiatives Observatory as well as the Port Knowledge Center were continuously updated by PDM. Other activities carried out with the support of the DPN will be described in detail in the following chapters.

4.2 Danube Ports Day 2022

Organised for the first time in the frame of DIONYSUS as a physical event in Constanta – as the previous events had to be organised online due to the restrictions of the pandemic - by MPAC and PDM and supported by the DPN, the event will touch upon relevant topics impacting the IWT industry.

The present EU modal shift and emission reduction targets (deriving from policy initiatives such as the European Green Deal, A Clean Planet for All, A Europe that protects: Clean air for all, A Europe fit for the Digital Age) contribute to improving the competitive position of the inland waterway transport sector in the overall transport modal split. An efficient infrastructure, environmentally friendly and modern inland waterway vessels, an optimum integration of inland waterway transport (IWT) and inland ports into the multimodal logistics chains, qualified staff as well as the use of digital services are basic prerequisites for a competitive and smart waterway mode.

Danube Ports Days (DPD) provides a transnational platform to present, discuss and collect feedback on the challenges faced by the port sector. The annual Danube Ports Days events promote IWT and Danube Ports towards logistics stakeholders in order to use inland waterway transport as part of their logistics chains. The proposed event continues the series of successful events organised in 2020 and in 2021. The Danube Ports Day 2022, organised in a hybrid format, is dedicated to the following main topics: *i) the Ukrainian goods exported from Danube ports and the new logistics chains, ii) transport of goods on the Lower Danube – reflecting on infrastructure conditions, opportunities and challenges, iii) digitalisation trends and intermodal logistics in the Danube Region.*

The figure below illustrates the Danube Ports Day events organised during the lifespan of DIONYSUS:



Figure 2: Danube Ports Day

4.3 DPN Coordination Meeting

The third Coordination Meeting was organised by PDM in cooperation with EHOO, whereas the fourth meeting is foreseen to be organised preceding the Danube Ports Day event, organised by PDM in cooperation with PGA in Constanta.

Organised online on 6 April, the core objective of the third Danube Ports Network (DPN) Coordination Meeting was to undertake a thorough review of the activities carried out in the frame of DIONYSUS where the DPN is at the heart of coordinated project capitalisation tasks. The DPN is a vital element of project implementation, knowledge-creation, and transfer, contributing to synergies with EU transport policies and other port development-related projects. A project idea initiated by the DPN and currently under elaboration refers to the advantages and challenges of on-shore power supply (OPS) in the greening process of Danube ports considering the ambitious legislative framework adopted by the European Union in terms of climate neutrality.

The fourth Coordination Meeting will provide an insight into the foreseen capitalisation activities which will be rolled-out during the last project implementation year. It provides the opportunity for port representatives to discuss and debate on key topics relevant for the DR port sector development contributing to the DIONYSUS “capital of knowledge” in relation to port strategy and infrastructure development, focusing on the ports needs and interests.

4.4 Report on EU and Transnational Partnerships & Coordination Activities. Current Status

The DPN plays a vital role in the elaboration process of the **Report on EU and Transnational Partnerships & Coordination Activities**. Capitalisation is understood way more than a mere dissemination of project results and outcomes. As such, this document will report on any kind of transnational partnerships and coordination activities that are relevant for port development. The DPN will be the key instrument to establish efficient partnerships and cooperation that are of utmost importance for port development in the Danube Region. The final version of this deliverable is due in Period 5, whereas inputs in terms of strategic coordination meetings are envisaged, according to the timeline proposed in the framework of DIONYSUS. As foreseen in the Capitalisation Strategy and the

AF, meetings in Periods 4 & 5 were organised with EUSDR PA 1a & PA 1b, with the RIS COMEX Project Coordinator, EFIP and representatives of the European Commission. The results of these meetings will feed into D.T3.3.3 (due in October 2022).

4.5 Second edition of the Danube Ports Handbook

The second edition of the Danube Ports Handbook will be published in October 2022. The first-hand data was collected by means of two online surveys having the core objective to identify and to analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Danube ports. Both editions of the Danube Ports Handbook are an integral part of **D.T3.3.4 Report Knowledge Transfer Events, Tools and Publications**. A total of 15 ports, covering the entire area of the Danube Region, participated in the survey and as such are depicted in the frame of the handbook. The questionnaire designed within this study was distributed twice – once in 2021 to collect data covering the years 2019 and 2020 as well as for a second time in 2022 to collect data for the year 2021. The timeframe under investigation therefore supports a **comparative analysis** of pre-pandemic periods with periods during the health crisis. 15 ports participated in the survey.

4.6 Project newsletter & Capitalisation Factsheet

During the year 2022 covering Periods 4 and 5 of DIONYSUS, one newsletter was already published, whereas a second one is foreseen to be elaborated end of September while a last one will be published in the final month of DIONYSUS – December. These newsletters have the scope to inform the interested audience – both in the Danube Region and beyond – about the latest developments in the frame of the project. DPN is actively involved in the elaboration of the DIONYSUS newsletters informing the interested audience about the ongoing and future proceedings as well as the implementation status of the project.

A capitalisation factsheet, summarizing the content of this report, will be published in December 2022.

4.7 Updating the Digital Initiatives Observatory & the Port Knowledge Center

The DPN website (www.danubeports.eu) represents the main source of information concerning the activities rolled-out as part of the DIONYSUS Capitalisation Strategy with the support of the Danube Ports Network (DPN).

Prepared and launched in the framework of the DAPhNE project in 2018, the website has several dedicated sections which provide its visitors first-hand information on the DPN activities, relevant conferences and events, DPN partners, publications, etc.

In the framework of DIONYSUS, the DPN website received new functionalities, namely, the (i) **Port Knowledge Center** and the (ii) **Digital Initiatives Observatory**.

The figure below provides a screenshot of the current version of the DPN website:

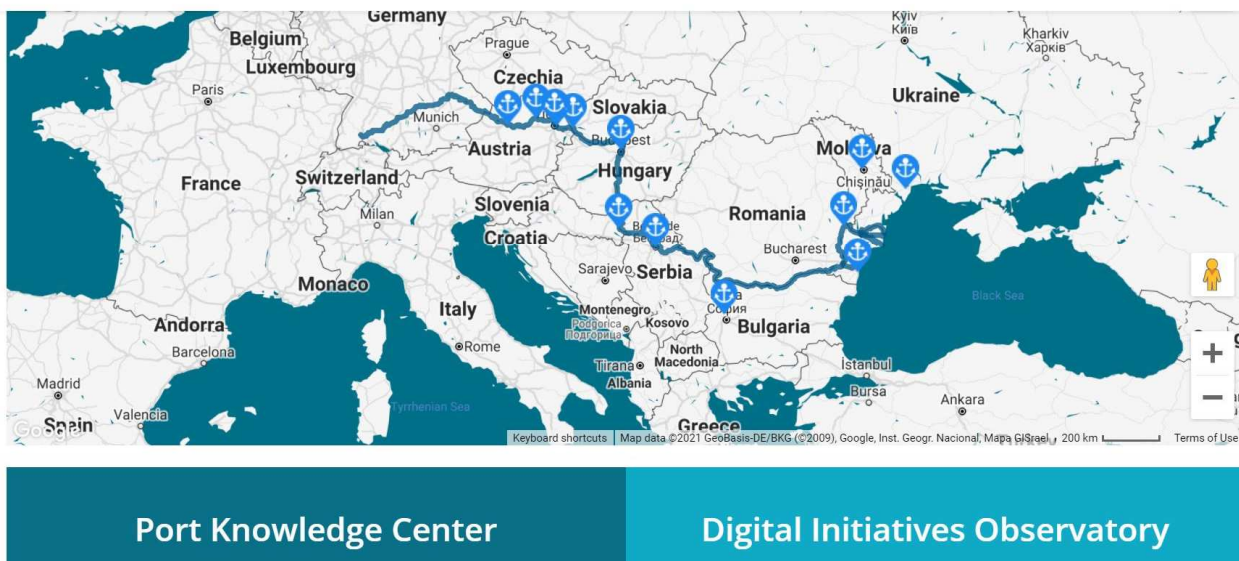


Figure 3: Screenshot DPN website

As already mentioned in the previous Yearly Activity Report 2021, work on the update of the DPN website was completed in Q1/2021 in order to accommodate a dedicated section entitled “Port Knowledge Center” which comprises 4 subsections, namely:

- Port Statistics
- Publications
- Events & Coordination Meetings
- Deliverables and Outputs

The figure below illustrates the main functionalities of the Port Knowledge Center:

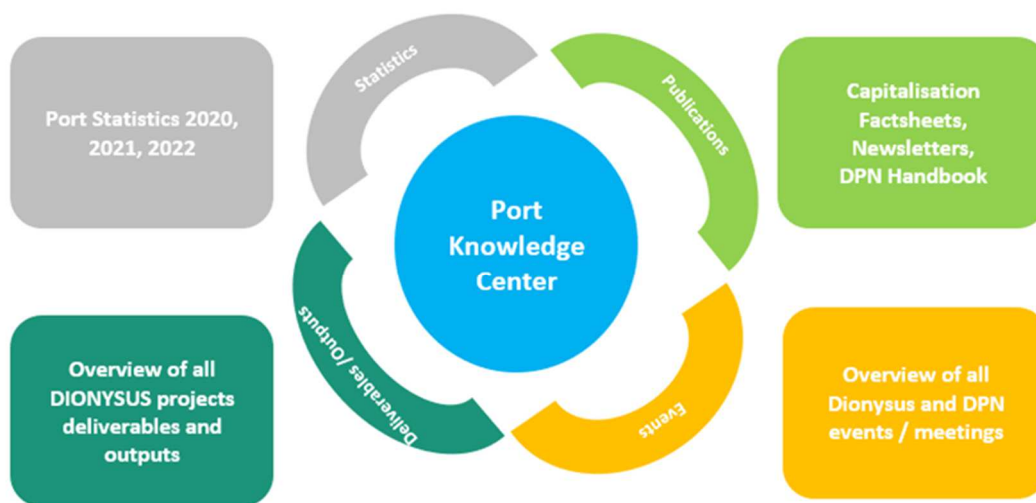


Figure 4: Port Knowledge Center

The Port Knowledge Center was continuously updated by the team of PDM with relevant publications (Danube Ports Handbook, newsletters, factsheets) as well as with the main results achieved in the frame of the DIONYSUS project.

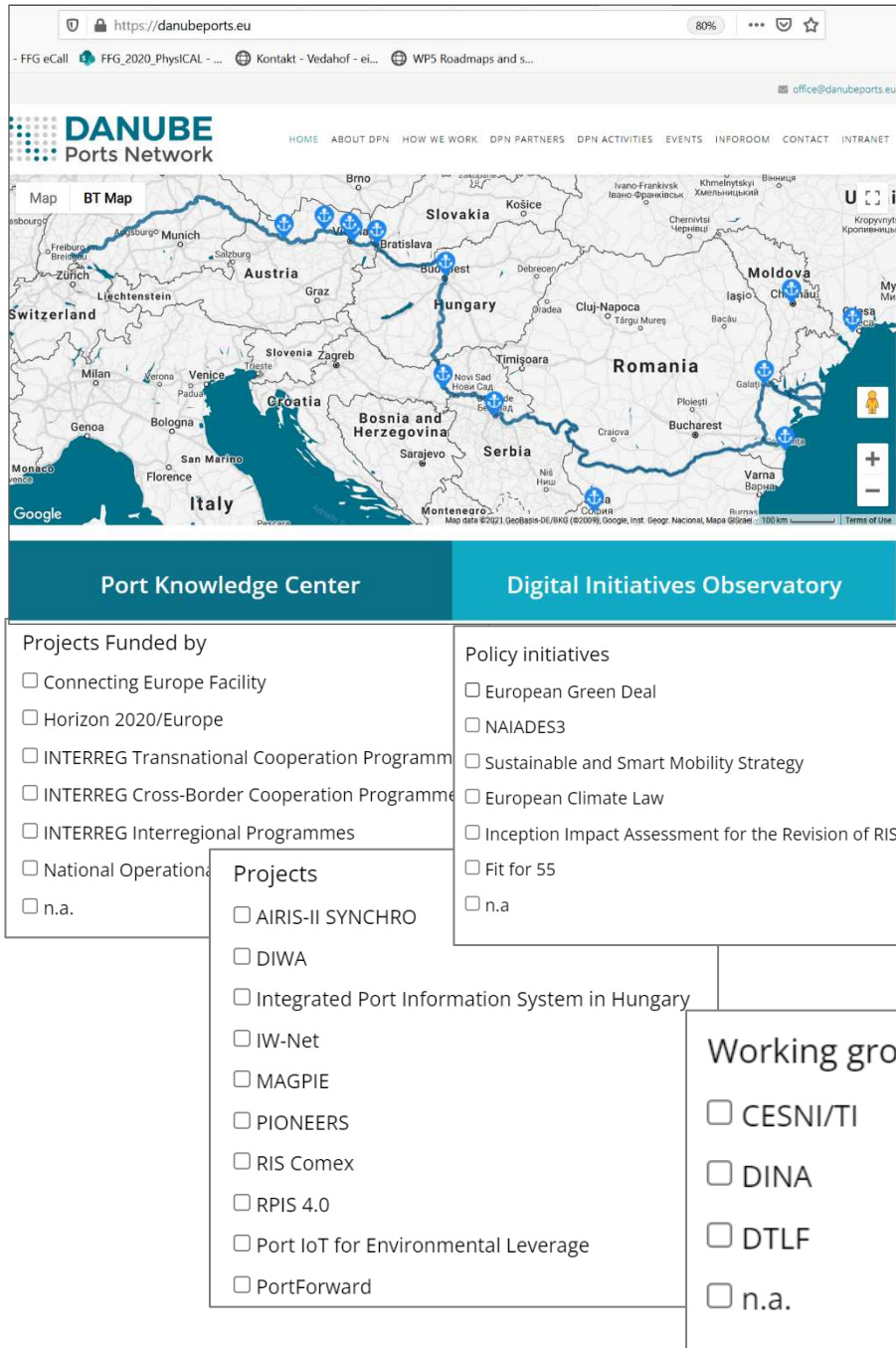
The **Digital Initiatives Observatory** consists of digitalisation initiatives along the logistics chains in line with RIS deployments, EU digitalisation policy goals, legislation and measures in relation to IWT.

The Observatory consists of an interactive webpage which is hosted on the DPN website and was periodically updated. As such, the information published will support Deliverable T2.4.2 Yearly Activity Reports 2020, 2021, 2022.

The webpage is in such a way designed that it enables the visitor a fast and easy access to the most relevant information. By means of dedicated filters, the visitor will select the information which interest him/her the most, choosing between:

- country
- transnational projects,
- policy initiatives,
- dedicated working groups,
- funding opportunities.

The figure below illustrates the Digital Initiatives Observatory:



The screenshot shows the website for the DANUBE Ports Network. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT DPN, HOW WE WORK, DPN PARTNERS, DPN ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, INFOROOM, CONTACT, and INTRANET. Below the navigation is a map of the Danube region, highlighting various ports and cities along the river. The map includes labels for countries like Austria, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia, as well as cities like Bratislava, Budapest, and Bucharest. Below the map, there are two main sections: 'Port Knowledge Center' and 'Digital Initiatives Observatory'. The 'Digital Initiatives Observatory' section is expanded to show a list of projects and policy initiatives.

Port Knowledge Center	Digital Initiatives Observatory
Projects Funded by <input type="checkbox"/> Connecting Europe Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Horizon 2020/Europe <input type="checkbox"/> INTERREG Transnational Cooperation Programme <input type="checkbox"/> INTERREG Cross-Border Cooperation Programme <input type="checkbox"/> INTERREG Interregional Programmes <input type="checkbox"/> National Operational Programmes <input type="checkbox"/> n.a.	Policy initiatives <input type="checkbox"/> European Green Deal <input type="checkbox"/> NAIADES3 <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> European Climate Law <input type="checkbox"/> Inception Impact Assessment for the Revision of RIS <input type="checkbox"/> Fit for 55 <input type="checkbox"/> n.a.
Projects <input type="checkbox"/> AIRIS-II SYNCHRO <input type="checkbox"/> DIWA <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Port Information System in Hungary <input type="checkbox"/> IW-Net <input type="checkbox"/> MAGPIE <input type="checkbox"/> PIONEERS <input type="checkbox"/> RIS Comex <input type="checkbox"/> RPIS 4.0 <input type="checkbox"/> Port IoT for Environmental Leverage <input type="checkbox"/> PortForward	Working groups <input type="checkbox"/> CESNI/TI <input type="checkbox"/> DINA <input type="checkbox"/> DTLF <input type="checkbox"/> n.a.

Figure 5: Digital Initiatives Observatory

Both the Port Knowledge Center as well as the Digital Initiatives Observatory will be continuously updated until the end of the DIONYSUS project.

4.8 Contribution to European Initiatives (January-December 2022)

Since the start of DIONYSUS, the DPN, in its role as information provider and knowledge creation facilitator, was actively involved in numerous action programs, meetings and workshops that play a vital role in shaping IWT's future in the MFF 2021-2027. The following list provides a brief overview:

- **Danube Commission Expert Group on Ports**

DPN's intervention initiated a fruitful discussion among experts from the Danube-riparian countries in view of applicability, economic viability, and environmental impact. It was concluded that OPS indeed has the capacity to play an essential role in the greening transition of Danube inland and seaports. The successful greening transition of Danube ports must be tackled as a joint transnational effort having the corridor approach as a priority, for which the DPN is ready to provide its full support.

- **NAIADES Implementation Group**

The role of this Expert Group is to provide advice and expertise to the Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) in relation to inland navigation issues. Its tasks are the following:

- to provide advice to the Commission for the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives in the inland navigation sector.
- assist the Commission in the implementation of the NAIADES Action Programmes.
- give advice and provide input to the Commission in the preparation of the progress reports of the NAIADES Action programmes.
- support the Commission with regard to the policy-making discussion concerning the EU transport policy in the inland navigation sector, including aspects related to governance and cooperation with international river commissions and other relevant international organisations.
- provide input for the discussion of other topics of general interest for the sector, including, inter alia, the smooth integration of inland navigation transport in the TEN-T, the achievement of good navigation status, innovation and technological development issues, greening of inland navigation transport, new business models, innovative financing schemes or market enabling measures supporting modal-shift objectives.

- **FAIRway works! & Preparing FAIRway 2 Advisory Committee**

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the current status of both projects as well as their expected impact on the overall well-being of IWT. Important topics - such as the Upgrade of the Serbian Iron Gate 2 locks, Serbian Equipment for Good Navigation Status, Austrian Equipment for Good Navigation Status, as well as the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility were - just to mention a few - high on the agenda. Both actions are co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union and are implemented by the waterway management organisations of Austria, Croatia, and Serbia.

- **NAIADES & DINA Expert Group**

High on the agenda were topics concerning the adoption of legislation aimed at supporting the implementation of the goals stipulated in NAIADES III and the status of digitalisation - considered a prerequisite for competitive waterborne transportation.

4.9 Other DIONYSUS events

- **Ports and agricultural ports traffic in the Upper Danube Region Countries**

As part of A.T 3.2, the Regional Workshop dedicated to Ports and Agricultural Products Traffic was organised by PP14 Wieser Consult. The workshop discussed present and future traffic flows, the throughputs of agricultural products in the ports located in the sub-region Upper Danube (AT, DE, SK). The workshop analysed the existing transport infrastructure together with the status-quo of the on-going and planned infrastructure projects, as basis for the elaboration of various assumptions on potential traffic and trade agricultural flows of the Danube ports Infrastructure and superstructure needed in the ports, as well as connecting road and rail infrastructure, were identified and mapped.

- **3rd Workshop on Container Liner Services**

Organised in the framework of the DIONYSUS project by the Port of Constanta, the third workshop on Container Liner Services successfully brought together more than 50 participants involved in the promotion and development of containerized transport on the Danube ranging from decision-makers, representatives of the Danube Transnational Program, of EFIP and viadonau to members of the project consortium, academia as well as business representatives operating on the Danube and beyond.

The third and final event in this series offered the stage for interested stakeholders to discuss the potential and future of container transport on the Danube. The event set the scene to reflect and evaluate aspects related to lessons learned and new market conditions, and the prospects for relaunching and supporting this type of transport.

- **2nd Stakeholders' Meeting on Port Pricing Systems**

Organised in the frame of DIONYSUS, the 2nd Stakeholders' Meeting on Port Pricing Systems was successfully organised on 14 June by the Port Authority Vukovar. The event brought together experts from the Danube Region to discuss applied port pricing principles and methodologies in Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Romania.

- **New Opportunities for Cargo Traffic through the Port of Constanta**

The 14th edition of the Constanta Port Day in Budapest provided the stage to discuss and present the potential of containerized transport on the Danube between Central Europe and the Black and Caspian Sea area. Three reference companies representing port operators - Comvex, TTS, and SCS -

attended the meeting and provided first-hand insights into their further development capabilities. Attended by key players of the Hungarian industry, the Constanta Port Day offered excellent networking opportunities with the aforementioned Romanian companies to discuss possibilities of potential cooperation, highlighting the advantages of the Port of Constanta as an important transport hub for Central and Eastern Europe.