



via donau

THE AUSTRIAN WATERWAY MANAGEMENT COMPANY



via donau

“Our goal is to protect the Danube habitat and shape the future of Danube shipping.”

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our tasks

via donau – we are 272 employees based at five locations, one field office and nine locks on the Danube.

via donau – cares for 800 km of riverbank,

- ensures the conservation of 500 km of towpaths,
- manages around 600 properties,
- maintains 200 km of flood protection dams and
- passes around 100,000 ships through its locks every year.

With 23 base stations and one main office, via donau operates the shipping information system DoRIS - Danube River Information Services on the Austrian Danube.



INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Infrastructure for the highways of the future

The Danube provides a modern and living infrastructure for shipping. via donau's tasks range from the maintenance of riverbanks and bank constructions to the upkeep of shipping routes and the operation of locks. This is the only way to make shipping competitive and to offer inland shipping as an attractive and cost-effective transport alternative. With the introduction of customer-oriented waterway management, via donau sets further innovative standards of service provision for all shipping providers. Knowledge of the river is a prerequisite for safe passage along the Danube. via donau measures the current at regular intervals and initiates relevant construction measures. The collected data simultaneously forms the basis for digital monitoring systems.



FLOOD PROTECTION

Responsibility for flood protection

via donau is responsible for structural measures on the rivers March, Thaya and the Danube. via donau is also in charge of taking precautionary and defensive

“We protect around 500,000 people from flooding.”

measures in the field of flood protection installations. via donau is currently restoring the flood dams on the rivers March and Lower Thaya. As the administrative office of the “Donauhochwasserkonkurrenz” (DHK), via donau is responsible for the maintenance and protection of the dam constructions of the DHK on the river Danube. Furthermore via donau organizes and carries out all flood control services.

ECOLOGY

For a living waterway

Inland shipping is the most environmentally friendly means of transport. In countless water engineering projects, new wetland areas are being created through the linking of oxbow lakes. The renaturalisation of the Danube is creating near-natural riverbanks and new habitats for animals and plants. Shipping and the Danube as a habitat need not be a contradiction. The most impressive example of this is probably the Integrated River Engineering Project on the Danube to the east of Vienna: it secures the existence of the Donau-Auen National Park and enables year-round reliable navigation channels for shipping. With WANDA, via donau has established a symbol of environmental protection at European level. This is an EU programme aimed at providing the Danube with sustainable protection from pollution caused by rubbish and waste water.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

A river connecting Europe

Few other regions than the Danube have felt so greatly the effects of the political and economic changes of recent years. Today, the Danube connects ten independent countries and is home to around 100 million people. The collaboration of all Danube countries, the implementation of communal projects and the unified shaping of legal parameters all make significant contributions to the strengthening of Danube shipping. The European action programme NAIADES has succeeded in ensuring the lasting importance of inland shipping transportation. This programme has been realised with considerable involvement from via donau and lays out clear strategies for shipping in Europe. via donau is part of a network of organisations and waterway management companies throughout the Danube region and is involved in both national and international lobbying.



TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

The technology of tomorrow, today

Shipping is continuing to evolve all the time. The planning of transport, security, punctuality and the overseeing of the status of shipments – all of which are standard with other means of transport – must also be available for inland shipping. With DoRIS – Danube River Information Services – via donau has contributed to the development of a defining instrument for the modernisation of inland waterway transport. In 2006, DoRIS commenced operations and set the standard for navigation information systems all along the Danube. Nevertheless, the future has only just begun and via donau is working at full speed to develop new and improved services.

TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

More goods on board

Inland waterway transport already offers attractive logistics solutions to the economy for inland shipping. The Austrian-Romanian Study COLD

“One single push-tow with 3,700 t load capacity is equal to 148 LGVs.”

confirms the economic and ecological advantages of scheduled container services on the Danube. New initiatives and service provisions are being designed and implemented by via donau to make inland shipping more attractive to higher-value goods. The customer always takes centre stage. via donau works closely with ports and production and loading industries and is simultaneously a contact point for all questions relating to Danube shipping.



EDUCATION

Knowledge should stay on the river

Collecting, processing and relaying specialist Danube shipping knowledge, as well as the enhancement and consolidation of this knowledge, are central concerns for via donau. In addition to supporting the INeS Danube learning platform, an internet-based learning platform for inland waterway transport, via donau is also the editor of countless publications, such as the “Manual on Danube Navigation” and the “Blue Pages”. Under the title “donau on tour”, the former cargo ship MS Negrelli travels the Danube as a floating exhibition centre – a unique project among Europe’s waterway management companies.

INNOVATION

Shaping the future

International research projects, such as “Cleanest Ship” and “Supergreen” and cooperation with scientific institutions, such as the Christian Doppler-

“The river is regaining its natural territory.”

Laboratory at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences ensure that via donau remains fit for the future. Innovative ideas are followed up with action: in early 2011 a permanent exhibition on Danube shipping is due to open in Ennschafen. The new “Danube Shipping Information Centre” will bring greater understanding of the most varied facets of Danube shipping to people of all ages in a new and innovative way.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Strengthening inland waterway transport

The sustainable development of Danube shipping requires long-term strategic planning and an array of concrete measures. Inland waterway transport should not be regarded in isolation, but also integrated into a complete logistics chain. In 2005, the “National Danube Shipping Action Plan” came into effect in Austria, in which around 70 individual measures were defined for strengthening and developing shipping. The National Action Plan (NAP) was given substantial support in its development by via donau and defines the key aspects of Austrian shipping policy in the years to come. Once again via donau has demonstrated its function as an efficient instrument of Austrian shipping policy.



ABOUT US

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