



“SETTING UP THE STRUCTURE OF A DANUBE RIVER FORUM” HOME/2012/ISEC/FP/C2/4000003980

FINAL CONFERENCE

12-13 May 2015, Budapest (Hungary)

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Final Conference of the project entitled „Setting up the Structure of a Danube River Forum” (hereinafter: DARIF) implemented between 1st July 2013 and 30rd of June 2015 with the coordination of Hungary in partnership with the Republic of Bulgaria and the Federal Republic of Germany and with the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight Against Crime Programme (ISEC) of the European Union was held at Budapest on 12-13 May 2015.

The Final Conference was held with the participation of high-level representatives and experts of the Ministries of Interior and law enforcement agencies of the countries involved in the project. The representatives of the European Commission, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, EUBAM, EUROPOL, INTERPOL, AQUAPOL, Danube Commission and relevant Hungarian governmental and non-governmental bodies were also invited to the conference. The aim of the event was to enable the high-level representatives of the countries participating in the project to evaluate the experience of the pilot operation and to discuss the concept of future cooperation by virtue of overviewing the results of the project.

At the Final Conference the representatives of the ten member states of the DARIF project (Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine)

desiring to improve the safety and security of the Danube transportation corridor;

being aware that effective cooperation among the law enforcement authorities of their countries is of utmost importance for combating crime related to waterway transport;

having reviewed the results of the experts’ work and the Joint Operations undertaken during the project and the proposals of the experts’ working groups;

recalling the Joint Declaration adopted at the Kick-off Conference held on 17-19 September 2013 at Budapest and Mohács that served as a basis of the cooperation in the project;



declaring the successful implementation of the project entitled „Setting up the Structure of a Danube River Forum”;

underlining the importance of the joint action of the countries along the Danube river against illegal migration, serious organized cross-border crime, economic crimes using the Danube as their means, and actions threatening the waterway transport of the Danube River, the quality of water and the safety of the residents along the banks of the river;

acknowledging that their active participation in the implementation of the project may not generate any further obligations;

unanimously made the following recommendations:

1. The continuation of the successful international cooperation started and deepened in the project shall be promoted in the future with the regular cooperation platform entitled the Danube River Forum that enabled the discussion of issues arising in connection with the safety and security of the Danube River transport at strategic and expert level being a good starting point.
2. Cooperation should be enhanced by means of the setting up of national contact points responsible for the security of the waterway in the member states and in order to ensure the fast and realtime information exchange a permanently functioning Coordination Centre should be established.
3. The correction of deficiencies of international law hindering the deeper and more efficient cooperation and the information exchange among the member states and the harmonization of the implementation of their common international obligations shall be promoted. With this respect the possibility of concluding a new international agreement or memorandum of understanding or the more effective implementation of existing agreements shall be examined.
4. The organization of joint operations further strengthening the safety and security of the Danube water transport shall be supported in the future using the results of the three successful Joint Operations of the project. These can be complemented by trainings organized for the experts of the member states and the law enforcement officials participating in the joint operations and for other officials.
5. More efficient controls and the reduction of the time of controls at the Danube shall be set as a future goal with the standardization and simplification of the documents and procedures used during the law enforcement control of the inland navigation on the Danube, the continuation of the exchange of experiences, the development and sharing of best practices, the promotion of the use of modern technology and the examination of the possibility of establishing an IT system and database supporting the work of the controlling authorities as possible means.