

## SCAN Policy Brief



### Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) threats directly linked to the Danube River

The Danube River is part of a waterway system spanning 3,500 km across Europe. This waterway system includes the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal and the Danube-Black Sea Canal, and provides the shortest navigable connection between the North Sea port of Rotterdam (Netherlands) and the Black Sea port of Constanta (Romania). Activities related to the Danube primarily have an impact

on Germany, Austria, the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, and Bulgaria within the EU, and Serbia, Moldova and the Ukraine outside the EU. SOC threats linked to the Danube River are both local and trans-regional in nature, and include incidents of trafficking in illicit goods, facilitated illegal immigration, Trafficking in Human Beings (THB), organised property crime and environmental crime.

#### Key Findings and Recommendations:

- The use of risk profiles (e.g. for vessel types and potential cover loads), based on data collected via the Law Enforcement Coordination Centre of the Danube River Forum (DARIF) in Mohács (HU) should serve to enhance the combating of (trans-)regional incidents within the framework of future cross-border actions coordinated by Aquapol. For these targeted initiatives, the feasibility of combining existing resources with wider capabilities in the law enforcement landscape (e.g. sniffer dogs, mobile container scanners) should be assessed.
- Cross-checking of data exchanged through the Mohács Coordination Centre during cross-border actions with Europol’s databases as well as operational analysis support (e.g. Mobile Office) provided by Europol could serve to identify criminal networks involved in the trafficking of various kinds of illicit goods, including OCGs and criminals acting as logistics facilitators.
- The sheer volume of goods transported in bulk cargo and containers on inland waterways such as the Danube warrants an intelligence-led interdisciplinary approach building on experiences from criminal police, customs, border police, as well as sea port law enforcement units to detect and combat related SOC activities (e.g. THB, facilitated illegal immigration and smuggling illegal goods).
- Due to the specific nature of environmental crimes such as water pollution, the trafficking of illegal waste or organised poaching related to the Danube River, affecting at least 14 countries in the region, this threat warrants a dedicated focus within the framework of the EnviCrimeNet.



The Danube Law Enforcement Coordination Centre in Mohács