

DANUrB+ COMMUNITY

DANube Urban Brand + Building Regional and Local Resilience through the Valorization of Danube's Cultural Heritage



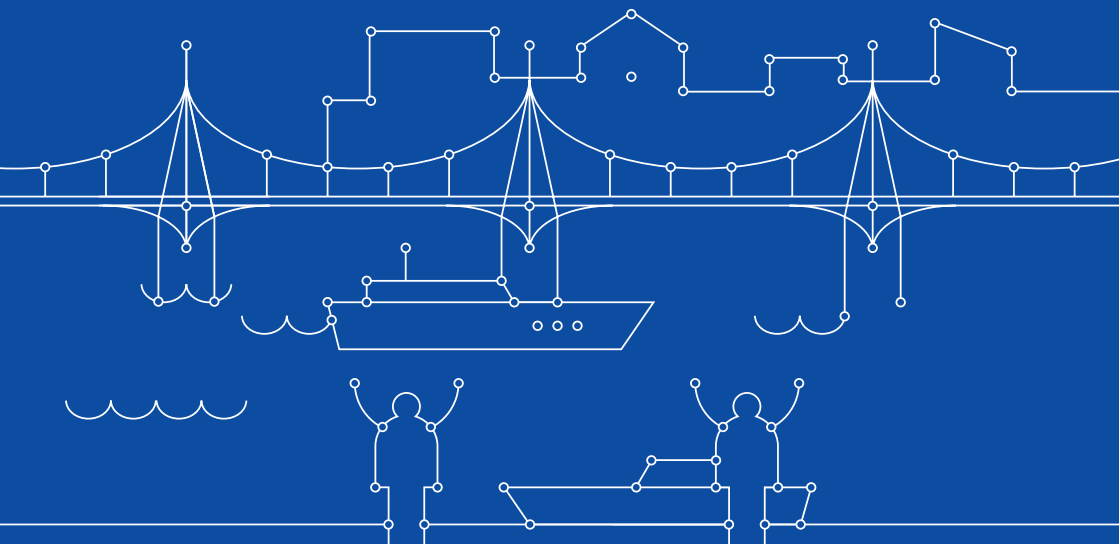
**JOURNEY CONNECTING
COMMUNITIES**

Are you located in a shrinking city along
the Danube River?

Are you a local producer or a service
provider?

Do you want to learn how to valorize your
cultural heritage?

Do you want to contribute to the social and
economic development of your region?



If your answer is YES

then

Follow us on our

A JOURNEY CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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DANUrB+ (DANube Urban Brand + Building Regional and Local Resilience through the Valorization of Danube's Cultural Heritage) was launched to foster resilient use of cultural heritage as a resource for the development of peripheral and border regions along the Danube. It is creating new opportunities for attractiveness in selected settlements and shrinking areas and is activating underused cultural heritage to strengthen the Danube cultural identity. The project activities are further developing a “Danube brand” for cities, providing an opportunity for the better monitoring of tourist movements and spending, and supporting the existing Cultural Routes. DANUrB+ adds value to the Danube

cultural identity through planned events such as Danube Days, various publications including an Atlas of DANUrB+ towns and a documentary movie telling 12 stories from 12 different locations, thus connecting the various stakeholders along the Danube. To enhance the value of the cultural heritage along the Danube, the project is increasing the capacity of local stakeholders for cooperation at local and interregional level. A Quality Label is being created, based on shared regional values, as well as a Danube Cultural Promenade that is connecting interregional initiatives along the river to revitalize cultural heritage. And the ultimate goal is the Danube destination as a Cultural Route through revived urban and cultural heritage sites and re-activated local communities.



The school programs of the project educate youth about cross-cultural values, encouraging them to discover and appreciate the heritage connected to the Danube River. And through the online DANUrB Platform (www.danurb.eu), uniting good practices of cultural/historical heritage, enabling stakeholders to act as one community and to create projects of added value to their communities, we continue our “Journey connecting communities”.



17 ERDF, 2 IPA consortium partners and 23 associated strategic partners from 6 Danube countries are working together to promote the sustainable use of cultural heritage and resources in the Danube communities.

Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Faculty of Architecture (BME), Hungary, Lead Partner

Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre (KEK), Hungary

Pest County Municipality (PCM), Hungary

Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (STU), Slovakia

Nansen Dialogue Centre Osijek (NDC), Croatia

National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism (INCDT), Romania

“Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism (UAUIM), Romania

National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” (NTC-BG), Bulgaria

Polytechnic University of Timisoara (UPT), Romania

Association for Urban Transition (ATU), Romania

New Bulgarian University, Faculty of Architecture (NBU), Bulgaria

Pons Danubii EGTC (PD), Slovakia

Bluelink Foundation (BlueLink), Bulgaria

Central European Foundation (CEF), Slovakia

GPS City Guide Kft., PocketGuide (GPS-PG), Hungary

Euroland Banat Association (EBA), Romania

New Cultural Neighborhood (NKN), Serbia

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture (UBGD-FA), Serbia

National Institute for Research and Development in Construction, Urbanism and Sustainable Territorial Development (URBAN-INCERC), Romania

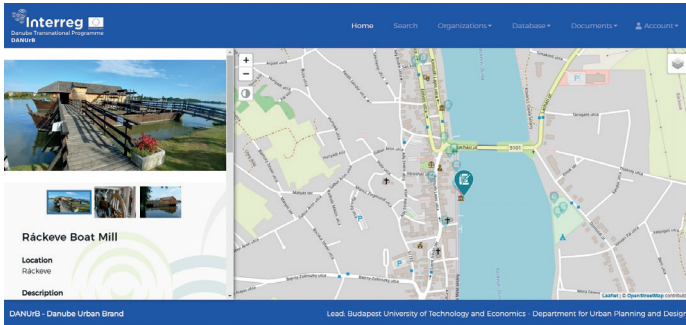
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Through DANURB+ partnership, a series of creative and practical solutions and outcomes were developed, allowing a better management and promotion of the industrial and cultural heritage of the target regions.

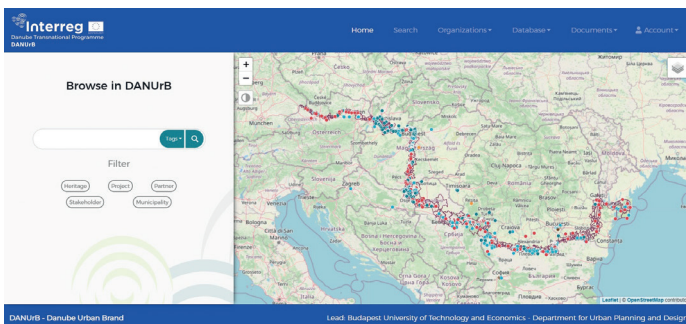
DANURB PLATFORM

www.danurb.eu



The DANURB Platform aims to provide both locals and the general public with a set of tools. It targets local, regional and international stakeholders who want to manage projects focusing on development based on cultural heritage. The Platform is a communication and participation tool serving to connect stakeholders to sites and structures of cultural heritage value within networks along the Danube River, and to show and promote already existing cultural initiatives.

Our Platform is an online knowledge repository assembling heritage elements and local stakeholders who can valorize them. The heritage element can be a building, location (e.g., the riverside promenade), event or gastronomic element. Stakeholders can be municipalities, civil organizations, educational institutions, museums, entrepreneurs or even individuals who are interested in the cultural heritage along the Danube. The Platform presents them by displaying the geographical localization. In addition to these, the Platform shows the cases that we evaluate as good practice (projects): where one or more stakeholders utilize a heritage element. An important goal is that the collected heritages, stakeholders, and projects can easily learn about each other with the help of the Platform, by building a Common network.



POCKETGUIDE TOURS

DANUrB partnership produced a series of 12 audio tours along the Danube for the PocketGuide mobile application (www.pocketguideapp.com), and in DANUrB+ 3 new tours are spicing up the experiences of visitors. These tours were designed and promoted to bring tourists to unusual heritage places in the hidden towns of the Danube River and to experience and discover unique and non-common Danube heritage and culture.



Calarasi: Welcome to the DANUrB sightseeing tour in Calarasi. We'll start our walk at the old Zoo Garden and end the tour at the promenade of the river near the Waterfront Park. Our approximately three km long walk will take around 2 hours and cover some wonderful sights, so be prepared to witness truly vivid art and architecture and plenty of nature in between. At the end of the tour, you can enjoy the breeze, silence, and tranquility of the Danube. Come on, let's go!

Little Danube: Welcome to the DANUrB gliding tour on the Little Danube, where we will discover the peculiarities of this region! Being a branch of the river Danube, Little Danube stretches from Bratislava to Kolarovo where it flows into the river Váh. The island in between, called Zitny ostrov, meaning rye island, is a stunning location with gorgeous natural vistas that catch the eye from a distance and unique animal and plant life that are best appreciated through careful observation. We will glide past the shores all the way through the 137 km long meandering branch, so feel free to join us at any point and take a rest at one of the camping sites whenever you get tired. Have fun!



Sombor: Welcome to the DANUrB sightseeing tour in Sombor! During the tour, we'll visit Zupanja City Hall, home of the biggest painting in Serbia, walk across Glavnjak, the main street where you can literally touch the evolution of its pavement throughout history as well as the National Theatre Sombor which has been operating since the 1880s. So, lace your shoes, and let's go, the town as a picture from a kaleidoscope is waiting for us!



“EYES OF THE DANUBE” DOCUMENTARY FILM

The DANURB+ Documentary “Eyes of the Danube” is a movie telling 12 different stories of shrinking cities along the Danube, shared by citizens about their good practice initiatives valorizing heritage in their communities. Made to be the legacy of DANURB+ community to future generations, the Documentary film goal is to inspire others to travel and to get to know these places and to benefit their societies by following the good examples shown in the movie.

And Danube connects them all. All stories share an inner desire to make each of the environments and societies more visible. The richness of this movie lies in discovering the Danube as a strength and inspiration for these twelve communities.





In the DANURB projects (DANURB and DANURB+) one of our main goals was to find common tracks, living and forgotten/or hidden remnants of cultural heritage in the DANURB countries, which can be re-discovered and activated for regional identity and brand building, as well as local and community development. Regional branding is an umbrella term, strongly related to social capital, regional networking, and development. This is a connection between the individual and collective reputation, a collaborative interaction of local stakeholders in quality based, value adding, regional identity strengthening institutionalized activities – such as regional product and service branding and labeling – an important tool for local/regional development and community building.

DANURB+ Quality Label is a unified quality criterion, in the form of a brand seal, granted to all initiatives, services, products and projects that work locally with the heritage valorization of the Danube. It is a guarantee to municipalities, developers and investors, tourists that the labeled product contributes to the resilience of the given activity region, and is sustainable at the economic, social, and environmental level, uses local resources and values initiated by local stakeholders, and connects to heritage related to the Danube.

More than 250 Quality Label potential candidates were identified and mapped from the 6 Danube countries, out of which more than 100 have joined the labeling system during its registration and will have their products/services labeled with the DANURB Quality Seal starting from 2023. The Quality Label is managed by DANURB International Association (DIA).

(RE)ACTIVATED SHRINKING REGIONS



In the DANURb+ partnership, and together with local stakeholders, different strategies and ideas were realized in order to create a new dynamic for the shrinking situation.

To achieve this, we have implemented a lot of initiatives and activities for reinventing heritage places for fostering networking and mentoring as well as for encouraging a total immersion with real life experience of local communities.

ACTION PLANS



Bulgaria

Valorization of local culture, heritage, and landscape in the region of Belene, Nikopol and Gulyantsi through the creation of a literary route tracing the memory of the first modern Bulgarian printed book 'Abagar', as well as the development of memorial tourism in the notorious prison island of Persin and the creation of a cultural landscape near the ancient city of Ulpia Eskus.

Initiators: BlueLink Foundation, municipalities of Belene, Nikopol and Gulyantsi.

Local values connecting communities in the regions of Vidin (Bulgaria)-Calafat (Romania): Creating Vidin-Calafat industrial heritage route, based on the reconstruction of the abandoned old Diesel Power Plan in Vidin into an Industrial Heritage Museum, dedicated to the history of building the Vidin-Calafat Bridge. The bridge connects Bulgaria and Romania, past and present as well as East and West, which is also complemented by the name of the Vidin-Calafat bridge – "New Europe".

Initiators: National Tourism Cluster "Bulgarian Guide", Municipality of Vidin.



Croatia

“Revitalization of Patriarchal Park in Dalj”:

The local Patriarchal Park has the capacity to become a cultural and touristic point of interest for local and international visitors. The aim from the action plan is to get content to the park and make it more interesting as well as to preserve its historical value.

Initiators: Municipality Erdut, Primary school Dalj, Cultural and Scientific Centre Milutin Milanković, Local Development Agency in Dalj and NDC.



Romania



Giurgiu city “Facing the Danube” through an urban regeneration and cultural and touristic valorization of Smârda neighborhood.

Initiators: Association for Urban Transition, Regional Museum “Teohari Antonescu” Giurgiu, LaBordei community, Municipality of Giurgiu.

Creating a green axis in Călărași Municipality by extension of landscaping and urban design for green spaces – parks and urban gardens, along the Borcea canal.

Initiators: UAUIM, Călărași Municipality, Călărași City Hall, Călărași Museum, The Old Post-Office Community Center, DANURB International Association, Association for Urban Transition.



Serbia

Supporting the development of “Staparska ruža / Stapar Rose” Women Association for the revival and production of traditional rugs in Stapar, town of Sombor, by creating a permanent mural with the local rug’s motives drawn on it and placed at the city Community Hall.

Initiators: Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade, where “Staparska ruža / Stapar Rose” Association.



Slovakia + Hungary



IPLY-GREEN-TWIN: The Lower Ipoly Action Plan targets a border area of Nitra (Slovakia) and Pest (Hungary) counties and includes seven settlements where the population does not reach 3,000 in any place. The goal is to strengthen the tourism position of the Lower Ipoly area as a multi-centered, transnational destination by preserving the scale of sustainability and by strengthening cross-border relations.

Initiators: KÉK, Szob, BME, PCM

Developing festival and event-based tourism connected to local heritage for Ráckeve region: The city and its region already have several good practices (Danube Days and various other festivals, Street of Open Gates, John the Bold Fairy tale route, etc.). Still, their interrelation and shared infrastructure could be developed further. The main goal of the action plan is to develop abilities, competencies, and physical infrastructure to facilitate the festival- and event-based tourism of the Szigetzug region. The main anchor points for the action plan are the already existing festivals and the good practice of the Szigetzug Danube days developed during DANURB 1 & 2. The overall goal is to improve the attractiveness of the events.

Initiators: BME, PCM, local municipalities from Ráckeve, Szigetújfalu, Szigetbecse, Árpád Museum, Ács Károly Cultural Centre, Felső-Homokhátság LEADER Action Group.



BUILDING CAMPS

Hungary

Construction of a temporary pontoon bridge from canoes across the river Ipoly, a tributary of the Danube. After the public opening the bridge was dismantled and the building camp moved down the river to Szob. Here the students built public furniture from wood and installed them on various spots in the town.

Organizers: Department of Urban Planning and Design at Budapest University of Technology and Economics and the Hungarian Centre of Contemporary Architecture

Date: July 2022



Romania

Design and installations of sustainable and eco-friendly small furniture for the “3 Smoked Olives Island” Festival in Călărași.

Organizers: UAUIM, Faculties of architecture, urbanism, landscape, and interior architecture, 3SOF' managers.

Date: July 2022



Designing and creating the new “Golubac square” for the Moldova Nouă Highschool to open its courtyard towards the public space and the Danube promenade.

Organizers: Politehnica University of Timișoara (Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning), Moldova Nouă High school.

Date: July 2022



Serbia

Construction and installation of urban furniture to re-arrange, revive and enhance the open public space of the small square in the center of Golubac.

Organizers: Faculty of Architecture in Belgrade, Golubac Municipality, Municipal tourist organization, municipal library, “Arhi.pro” private company.

Date: June 2022



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bulgaria

Pilot educational program for vocational schools **“Sustainable Entrepreneurship Along the Danube”**. The initiative was launched in 2021 and involved several vocational schools from Vidin, Svishtov and Ruse and included two stages: Stage 1: Online “Sustainable entrepreneurship along the Danube” held in December 2021, Stage 2: Business ideas generator “Sustainable Entrepreneurship Along the Danube” that will be held in December 2022.

Based on the Canvas model students prepared business plans and ideas using the local assets from their regions along the Danube. The school program is capitalizing

the achievements of the Interreg project with the acronym TRANS-EDU-NET, funded by the Balkan-Mediterranean program, implemented by NTC BG Guide.

Involved vocational schools: “Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov” High School (Vidin), “Nayden Gerov” Vocational School (Lom), “Aleko Konstantinov” vocational high school (Svishtov), “Ivan Pavlov” Vocational school of tourism (Ruse), “Elias Canetti” (Ruse).

Organizer: National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide”

Date: December 2021; December 2022



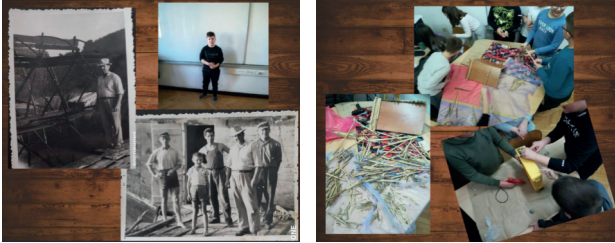
Croatia

A series of activities took place in various schools around Croatia, where students conducted different research about the history of watermills and fishery in the region. As an outcome of the initiative, the pupils develop 4 start-up companies to revive history around vanished watermills (“Golden Ear of Danube” will produce several types of flowers and sell them as an ecological product, “Restaurant Watermill” will offer a menu

with all the different traditional food of the region, “Dunav Art” offer services in art and entertainment like a school of tambourine, painting, knitting and dance, “Water sport” combines children care services with sports on the river) and made interesting products to raise awareness about forgotten traditions around fishery (a local dictionary related to the fishery, a local cookbook, interviews with local fishermen).

Organizers: NDC, Dalj Elementary School, Darda Elementary School, Elementary School Zmajevac, Elementary school Julija Benešića Ilok and School of Economics Vukovar

Date: school year 2021/2022



Hungary



Schoolyard Development with Wood-working Vocational High School and Trade School in Esztergom



Three workshops were dedicated to present and explain the furniture to build for the building camp. The classes included two different professions, the carpenter, and the painter classes. The students shared their ideas of furniture building such as outside speakers, benches, tables, basketball backboards, rubbish bins and a “kissing booth”. They formed small groups and stated their designer and modeling approach for the building process with the help and supervision of the organizers. For three days, students learned to use the tools and materials for woodworking, built the furniture and painted it.

Organizers: KEK, Valyo - City and River Association

Date: April 2022

Szobjektív Educational Trail in Szob:

The “Szobjektív” educational trail has 11 boards with micro stories representing the important stories and locations of the locals along the Danube bank and in the town. The contents of the boards were created in six workshops in the local culture house and school. Among others Szob has a board about the “City Trees”, the local tradition, where people plant a new tree every time a child is born, or the interactive “Lost and found in the Danube” boards.

Organizers: KEK, BME

Date: May 2022

Romania

One month program for youngsters from Giurgiu consisting of weekly day-long workshops in urban observation, critical thinking, small project design, video and poster making, as well as city trips and visits to heritage key locations and presentation of inspiring stories from Dr. Arh. Ilinca Păun Constantinescu, one of the protagonists in Planeta Petrila movie and activist in mining heritage regeneration, and from the theatre company Des Châteaux En L’air, presenting footage from their sailing journey along the Danube.



Organizers: Urboteca tutors and students from the Urbanism Faculty at “Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest, “Nicolae Balanescu” Atheneum in Giurgiu.

Date: July 2022



Workshop for 5th grader students from the Independenta Theoretical Highschool from **Calafat** municipality to discuss, highlight and present the values of the Danube intercultural and local heritage in the form of figures, painting, photography, using their creativity and imagination. Their creation was exhibited in the Arts Tournament "Turnirul Artelor" organized by Marincu Art Museum under the theme "My Town: Representative Buildings from Calafat".

Organizers: National Institute for Research and Development for Tourism, Romania (INCDT), from the Independenta Theoretical High school, Marincu Art Museum

Date: May 2022

A non-formal education program with students from various high schools from Calarasi, through a thematic photography contest named Calarasi landscape and heritage for the community. The competitive event aimed to promote the creativity, artistic and technical skills of children in the field of photography dedicated to the architectural and landscape heritage of the city, and which aimed to stimulate the imagination, originality, and the capacity for critical and selective observation of the city's values. The competition was accessed by 30 participants, from which 7 participants were selected in the final round and received 3 awards and mentions.

Organizers: UAUIM, Museum and Municipality of Calarasi, Posta Veche Community Center.

Date: June 2022



Serbia



An alternative **guided walking tour of Bačka Palanka** city with 10 students from the "20th October" Gymnasium to discover, experience and value their city. The tour included visits to the city museums, exhibition tours, history and culture discussion, city streets tour with focus on architecture and river role in the design of the city personality and values. Students participated in the Danube day festival, with a photography exhibition called

Danube Cosmos done in collaboration with the elementary school in Ilok, where students were asked to take a photo of the Danube's microcosmos.

Organizers: New Cultural Neighborhood (NN) the "20th October" Gymnasium" from Bačka Palanka

Date: 2022



"Treat your superhero" Workshop with the children of the "Lasta" Preschool Institution in **Golubac** focused on the recognition of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and aimed at helping children to know local customs and traditions, and to encourage them to be proud of their heritage and community. The program consisted first in children selecting a super-hero they know, or they like, to tell stories about it by creating some drawing and illustration. Some chose for example, Sonic the Hedgehog, SpongeBob, SquarePants, Spiderman, or Blaze. Then, kids were asked to draw a place, site of a building in Golubac and vicinity, which they would take their superhero to if it would visit Golubac. Children draw Golubac Fortress, the Danube River, the town, or hills behind it. All the drawings are collected by the organizers for a continuation phase of the school program.



Organizers: Faculty of Architecture – University of Belgrade, "Lasta" preschool institution.

Date: December 2021



Workshop for school children in Krivača village near **Golubac**, to discuss the valuable and interesting intangible heritage of the Vlach Ethnic minority in Krivača with a focus on the "Green Thursday" biggest celebration in the village organized annually in July. Children, accompanied by their teachers, were asked to illustrate the most attractive things happening that mark the celebration, which they will present to the guests of the event.



Organizers: University of Belgrade - Faculty of Architecture, a small school in Krivača Village

Date: February 2022

Slovakia

Pilot educational events, in Petržalka, for children in the 1st level of elementary school, aiming at raising interest in the urban space and waterfront in the neighborhood of the Elementary School Prokofjevova. The event gathered children from the school accompanied with their teachers around the waterfront of the Croatian Arm to share stories of their own experience or based on the telling of their parents and relatives and through brainstorming of ideas that could bring change to the character of the place. The program also included presentations to children about history, specific characteristics of the place and its role in its environment from Civic Association and MestoCity.

Organizers: Civic Association Tvory mesta, STU, CEF

Date: June 2022



Pilot educational event in Hrubý Šúr focused on regional development through cultural heritage protection in the region along the Little Danube for children of class 7 and 8 from the Elementary School with Hungarian Teaching Language in Senec and their teachers. Children were divided into 4 small groups in which they learned about local cultural heritage and also had the possibility to get into interaction with traditional building techniques. The program also included a lecture on traditional folk culture and its role in regional development, traditional building techniques (practical workshop), and an excursion to the Old School, Dome and Mini house.

Organizers: EcoCenter Civic Association ArTUR, STU, CEF

Date: June 2022

DANUBE DAYS

Bulgaria

“Danube Treasures” in Vidin -

(Re)Discovering the Danube Treasures:

Two-days celebration including performances of folklore music and folklore dances from Vidin-Calafat-Craiova region, Bungee jumping from the Danube bridge Vidin-Calafat, River experience with Dragon Boat Sailing, Exhibition of local traditions and crafts, Tasting of traditional local dishes, wines, and drinks, Open day in museums and galleries - Epigraphic Center and Lapidarium, “Nikola Petrov” Art Gallery, Children’s corner - “Danube through the Eyes of Children”, Free tour of less-known historical and architectural sites in the city, Art performance with music and light projection “Danube Waves” on the walls of Baba Vida Fortress.



Organizers: National Tourism Cluster “Bulgarian Guide” with the support of Regional Administration of Vidin, Municipality of Vidin, National Institute for Research Development in Tourism (INCDT)
Date: 2nd and 3rd July 2022



Croatia

Danube Day in Tikveš and Erdut: Visit of the pupils and teachers from the Primary school Darda to the Tikveš Educational Interpretation Centre (Kopači Rit Natural Park). Around 200 pupils from 4 schools (Zmajevac, Darda, Ilok, Dalj) in Erdut Croatia participated in the event. The one-day event celebration consisted of an art workshop, where children painted some of the main cultural heritage of the 10 countries along

the Danube. Paintings are 2 x 1,5 in size and they will be used in the future to decorate the local park next to the Dalj Primary School. In the program, there were also other sports and creative workshops.

Organizers: Nansen Dialogue Centre Osijek, Kopači Rit Natural Park, and 4 schools in Zmajevac, Darda, Ilok, Dalj
Date: 29th June 2022



Hungary

Festivals in Dunaújváros, Esztergom, Ráckeve, Szigetzug, Szigetújfalu, and Szigetbecse: The “Danube Day” was celebrated in multiple locations in Hungary: “Sugárúti Fesztivál” – Avenue Festival with several workshops and activities including local farmers market, library visit, city walks, historical heritage tours, Architects’ Festival with a beach library built by students for József Attila Library Dunaújváros, DANUR-Banity kids’ game for the “Tótágas” local kids’ festival in Esztergom, local heritage celebration and archeologists’ meetings in Szigetzug, evening concerts.

Organizers: KÉK - Contemporary Architecture Centre (KÉK), with the support of Valyo - City and River Association, and Department of Urban Planning from BME, and KulturAktív, and Kapcsolatok Háza and Árpád Museum, and Danube Days Festival in Szigetzug.

Date: 24th June 2022 – 10th July 2022.



Romania

Danube Days in Moldova Nouă: Exploring the Danube Canyon, Youth, Exhibitions, Education, Community, Heritage. A study trip was organized for the students of the “Clisura Dunării” High School from Moldova Nouă to experience the route between Moldova Nouă and Orșova (i.e., the entire Danube Gorge) as tourists with hand on experience on the practice of tour-guiding. On 29th June 2022, on the International Day of the Danube, DANURB+ partners marked the event with an exhibition organized at



Danube Days in Giurgiu on the historical neighborhood of Smârda. The festival was developed in close collaboration with the local community of Smârda, with an extensive 3-days program including: Photo and historical exhibition of the neighborhood - Smârda “Then and Now” - developed in collaboration with the Museum of History “Teohari Antonescu”, Studio COCON and a group of local historians, Landscape revitalization of the last hut in Giurgiu together with the dedicated local community “La Bordei” and with the active involvement of “Giurgiu Neoficial”, Exhibition CuApeleCu-



the Tourist Information Center of Moldova Nouă. Entitled “Miniature worlds - 12 stories from the community”, the exhibition is inspired by the documentation and research activity carried out within the DANURB+ project.

Organizers: Euroland Banat Association, Politehnica University of Timișoara, Danube Association from Moldova Nouă, and Clisura Dunării High School

Date: 25th – 26th June 2022, 29th June 2022



rate about the biodiversity of the Danube in the Giurgiu area together with the Mai Mult Verde Association and Giurgiu Local Initiative Group, A series of creative workshops for young people and children from Giurgiu held by local organizations such as Palatul Copiilor, Assoc. Millennium Dance or Assoc. Zâmbete și Vise.

Organizers: Association for Urban Transition, University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu”, Municipality of Giurgiu, local community of Giurgiu.

Date: 8th – 10th July 2022



Serbia

Danube Day in Bačka Palanka: a full afternoon program for children and young people including animation and entertainment activities, painting workshops, a competition in writing poems about the Danube, the “Danube Cosmos” exhibition displaying paintings of students from “Julije Benešić Elementary School” from Ilok and photos of students from the “20th of October Gimnazium” from Bačka Palanka, celebration evening at the city beach by students.

Organizers: Novo kulturno naselje, Bačka Palanka Tourist Organization, Julije Benešić Elementary School, 20th October Gimnazium in Bačka Palanka.

Date: 29th June 2022



Slovakia

Festival in Štúrovo - Intergenerational craft workshops: Organized in the framework of the XII FORMA FEST festival in Štúrovo on 13th August 2022, the aim of the workshops was to pass on regional cultural values to the young generation. The Forma Fest festival is a multi-genre event on the Danube riverside in Štúrovo near to the Mária-Valéria bridge that connects the town with its counterpart on the other shore, with Esztergom. The event offers a rich cultural program, concerts, dancing performances, discussions and presentations of performers and guests both from Slovakia and Hungary. Programs for kids were organized in the framework of DANuB+, such as the snake drawing activity on the Mária-Valéria Bridge symbolizing the connection between citizens of both towns. A creative corn husk modeling workshop was also an important part of the event. It was brought by members of two partner organizations: the Student Network and the Small Button civic association.



Organizers: FORMÁS civic association, Little Button civic association, Student Network, Central European Foundation

Date: 12th - 13th August 2022

STUDY TOURS



June 2021
Serbia



October 2021
Hungary, Slovakia
& Austria



November 2021
Serbia & Croatia



April 2022
Western Romania



May-June 2022
Romania &
Bulgaria



September 2022
Czech Republic &
Austria



October 2022
Bulgaria

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



October 2021

International Conference
"Saving Values"

Esztergom, Hungary

August 2022

International Conference
"Regional branding and
network building of cultural
economy and tourism"

Sombor, Serbia & Baja,
Hungary



December 2022

International Conference
"DANUrB+ Journey
Connecting Communities"

Budapest, Hungary



REGIONAL CONFERENCES



2022

Workshop series in the Szigetzug and Ipolymente area in Pest County

Hungary

10th - 11th March 2022

Regional Conference
"challenges and opportunities for living in shrinking and peripheral cities along the Danube"

Bucharest (Romania) and Ruse (Bulgaria)



30th - 31st March 2022

Regional conference on networking and joint promotion of the Danube

Moldova Noua, Romania





14th June 2022

Regional Conference
“Development Potentials
of The Danube and
The Little Danube”

Kolárovo, Slovakia

23rd June 2022

Regional conference
“Educational potential
of Danube heritage”

Dalj / Vukovar, Croatia



30th June – 1st July 2022

Regional Conference
“Creative Danube.
Connectivity – the key to
overcoming the shrinkage”

Vidin (Bulgaria) and
Calafat (Romania)



4th - 5th November 2022

Regional Conference
“Local values and initiatives
in Middle Danube Section”

Golubac & the Iron Gates,
Serbia



What is Danube Urban Brand (DANUrB) for me?



Bálint Kádár (BME)

DANUrB is the platform that connects us. Danube is our cultural common that connects us. This project shows me what Europe is, that we are Europe in our diversities and our commons. I take pride in seeing how people understand through DANUrB the meaning of our European identity, how abstract notions and values become tangible to them by experiencing the power of cooperation and cultural inclusion on such a large scale. The Danube was always a space where cultures could live together, communicate, and evolve. Seeing local communities eager to revitalize this tradition today, enthusiastic to take part in our journey connecting us all is what makes me continue to build the DANUrB story.



Béla Zsolt GERGELY (BME)

DANUrB, the concept, the constellation of projects, the larger community, and the wonderful, close-knit family that cropped up around the whole initiative has been a tremendously nurturing and supportive environment for me, both professionally and personally. My DANUrB journey started back in 2016 and it's far from over. The best is yet to come. Godspeed, fair winds and following seas ... I mean river.



Eszter Dávida (KÉK)

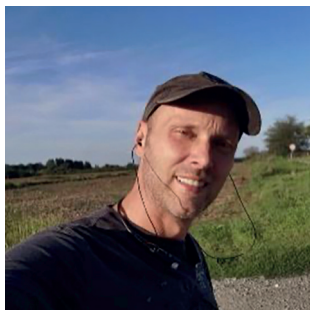
DANUrB is a journey along the Danube where all can meet with unique values in communities worth to know. Discovering these settlements made me realize how much strength do we have in small communities and with cooperation how much impact can they have on formulating the future of this region.

What is Danube Urban Brand (DANUrB) for me?



Péter Wolf (PCM)

I had the rare opportunity to observe closely the step-by-step process of building stakeholder participation, territorial network of collaborations and actions in the two micro regions of Pest County selected for DANUrB+ action planning. I call this a rare opportunity since participatory design - or grass-root innovation in general - requires more time and effort than any other traditional regional development practice. To gain insights and onsite experience, a one-off showcase or a single site-visit isn't enough. This is a longer-term experiment in an extremely fast-paced world, perhaps best described as a marathon... And a foundation. And a framework. A joint journey shared with others. Connecting communities.



Igor Dordevic (NDC)

Participating in this project I realized the depth of the historic and social heritage along the river Danube as well as the power and potential of joining together and networking around the progressive ideas which can bring sustainable development for the small communities next to its shores. Also, working on educational programs made a chance to actively involve teachers, children, and young people, to create common ground for cooperation, research, and education on the Danube past, present, and future.



Cristina Lixandriou (INCDT)

DANUrB project is a model of mentoring with an intelligent management that succeeds in making the local community understand that the main aim of the project is an adopted solution for each problem identified along the DANUBE. The local community is the KEY ELEMENT of the DANUrB's success; all the actions and results were elaborated and planned for helping them, providing adopted solutions for their local need. Also, DANUrB for me is a close friendship developed by understanding, trust, professionalism and concluding at the same way of thinking based on collaboratively strategic and intelligent activities in a cooperative way.



Angelica Stan (UAUIM)

An opportunity to know the Danube region better, and to feel part of the DANUrB's large family, experiencing together the effort of research and promoting the unknown values of the Danube, hidden in towns and cities.



Desislava Mincheva-Yordanova (NTC BG Guide)

DANUrB is an international community along the Danube, it is my community. Started as an initiative that connects various countries with different resources and potential, very different, yet very similar, it is shaping the new Danube image as a destination. DANUrB is uniting them all, providing opportunities for inspiration, creativeness, strategic planning, and transnational collaboration without borders. Various stakeholders learn from each other, revalorize their heritage and cooperate to continue the DANUrB legacy.... Together.



Mihai DANCIU (UPT)

DANUrB+ is about valorizing underused cultural heritage resources, about creating new possibilities for shrinking cities, about sustainable development through responsible tourism. But for me, personally, DANUrB+ is about connecting - stakeholders, municipalities, communities, initiatives. And about building trust - between individuals, but also towards the potential of the Danube area and the value of the local resources.



Diana Dobrin (ATU)

DANUrB project is a well-timed opportunity to give a new life to forgotten cities along the Danube. The program brings the right context, relevant actors, a solid knowledge platform and access to resources and expertise to offer what these cities and local communities need most - fresh energy, clear direction for change and the tools and belief to support their cities. Through all our engagements online and on the ground in this project, DANUrB has been first and foremost about discovering people, their stories, and the social dimension of cities.

TESTIMONIALS

What is Danube Urban Brand (DANURB) for me?



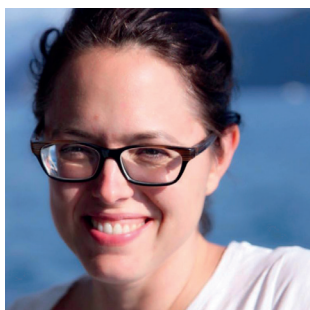
Zoltán Bara (Pons Danubii EGTC)

DANURB+ is a community and commitment with a goal to join people living along the Danube by making their values visible to a wider public. There is an immense power when common goals are initiated by a group of people that can stir up transformation in one another.



Gavrail Gavrailov (BlueLink)

DANURB+ for me is a common energy. The Danube without any doubt is the most European river, with significant influence for modern European civilization. In the last few decades many areas along the Danube are suffering from a shrinking process. DANURB+ is giving not only a common energy, but also a guiding light to many small communities. And we should keep walking, or if it is said in Danubian language - "Keep boating"!



Kristína Vandová (CEF)

Thanks to DANURB I had the opportunity to be part of an international project and work within a group of enthusiastic professionals who share the vision of a flourishing and sustainable Danube region across all the countries where this river flows. Visiting and learning about regions, towns, settlements, and communities on the Danube was a unique experience showing the nuances yet similarities of our common cultural heritage.



Andrei Szabo (EBA)

DANUrB is the opportunity to reach diverse lands and communities, rich, culturally and spiritually, which stretch on both banks, from the springs and the Middle Danube to the Iron Gates and the Black Sea area. It is a chance to discover and rediscover local communities and actors from the Banat Highlands and the Danube Canyon, artisans and tourism operators, students and teachers, small local producers and family businesses, NGOs and public administrations.



Marko Jozić (NKN)

Civic participation in culture and film production at the local level are the two spheres I am most dedicated to in my work. Danurb+ gave me the breadth and opportunity to look at both categories on an international level, and the knowledge gained during the project will greatly contribute to the quality and diversification in further dealing with the community and film. The Danube is a big plus in the whole process!



Alexandra Đukić (UBGD-FA)

Learning about the regions and towns along the Danube beautiful moments with DANUrB friends and locals, enjoying the local products, environment and festivals. Also, finding ways how to help local people to develop their towns to make them more visible for tourists and attract younger citizens to stay there.

What is Danube Urban Brand (DANUrB) for me?



Gábor Popovics (Pontibus Egtec)

DANUrB project complements well their cross-border activities by offering meaningful ways to connect communities and their local values in order to develop cross-border social, economic, tourism, cultural and inter-institutional relations, thus contributing to the coordinated development of the region.



Judit Rácz (Felső-Homokhátság LAG)

The DANUrB project has provided me with a lot of amazing examples of how local communities are responding to recent challenges, and how they are trying to transform the local places from cultural heritage to a well-usable, vibrant and modern meeting place that can attract both the local residents as well as visitors. Across different countries, we observed that local actors were thinking together about the immediate environment, the natural or cultural heritage, and we found that this was a delightful, inspiring way of collaborating. Cooperation creates communities at different levels, and these communities transfer knowledge, like the Danube River helps deliver the common goods between places.



Amalia Raluca Bălășoiu (National Forest Administration Romsilva - Iron Gates Natural Park Administration R.A.)

DANUrB is the network that completes, through its objectives related to cultural heritage, the puzzle of the Danube heritage, in addition to the Natura2000, Greenbelt network.



**Mihaela Cati Vatuiu
(Municipality of Drobeta -
Turnu Severin)**

We are honored to be part of this project that brought us a great experience with professional people. The project activities gave us the chance to know each other and to build strong partnerships in the future.



**Lăcrimioara Ziman
(„Clisura Dunării” Technological
High-School, Moldova Nouă)**

The DANUrB+ project meant, for me, the opportunity, but also the joy, to explore and promote the natural beauties of my native area, working in a beautiful team, with wonderful children and special people. It was a pleasure to participate in this project and I wish to have such opportunities again.



**Tiberiu Pospisil
(Visit Banat, Eibenthal)**

A team of people with big hearts and good intentions with ideas and vision. An example of “Yes, it is possible!”, an inspirational model for all of us. DANUrB is the software part that manages to put the already existing hard drive into operation.



Photographer: Adrian Radulescu, INCDT



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Project “DANube Urban Brand + Building Regional and Local Resilience through the Valorization of Danube’s Cultural Heritage”, DANUrB+, DTP3-433-2.2 is implemented under Priority Axis 2 “Environment and culture responsible Danube region”, Specific Objective 2.2 “Foster sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage and resources” of the Danube Transnational Program 2014-2020.

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