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Danube Safety Net Project

Progress Report № 2

I. General Information

Project “Improvement of the transport safety in the common Bulgarian-Romanian stretch of the Danube river through development of the emergency response by cross-border cooperation”, e-MS code: ROBG-522 - the Danube Safety Net Project was launched in line with the principles of the EU 2020 Strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and in direct response to one of the main priorities of the EU funded INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme for increasing the transport safety on waterways and maritime transport routes.

The project was approved for financing within the Third Call for project proposals, under Priority Axis 1 “A well connected region” of the INTERREG V-A Programme and is classified as “Hard” project. Its duration is **36 months** with **starting date - the 15th of September, 2018**. The project will be implemented by two partners - the Bulgarian Executive Agency “Maritime Administration” (EAMA) which is the Lead Partner and the Romanian Naval Authority (ANR).

The overall budget of the Danube Safety Net Project is **5,699,612.87 euro** as the Contribution from the European Regional Development Fund is 85% or **4,844,670.93 euro**.

The overall objective of the Danube Safety Net project is: To improve the safety of river Danube navigability for the whole length of the common stretch between Romania and Bulgaria, through the following measures:

- ✓ Establishment of Emergency Response centers (ERC) in Romania in the town of Turnu Magurele) and Bulgaria in the towns of Ruse and Lom;
- ✓ Supply, development and integration of a common Geographic Information System for Emergency Response;
- ✓ Supply of specialized crafts carrying emergency response equipment for the two partners;
- ✓ Development of a Common Action Plan for reaction in situations related to transport safety on the common stretch of the Danube river.



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The implementation of the project is structured in four Work Packages:

- **Work Package P “Project Preparation”** covered the project preparation phase during which the two Partners jointly established the project goals, planned the overall implementation and submitted the project proposal;
- **Work Package M “Project Management”** is dedicated to the administrative, financial and operative management of the project and together with **Work Package C “Communication”** will support the implementation of the activities for the whole duration of the project.
- **Work Package T1 “Measures for Improvement of River Transport Safety”** is the core and most important Work Package of the project and includes five logically interconnected activities.

II. State of Implementation (July, 2019 - February, 2020) - Summary

During the reporting period, the project activities were carried out in accordance with the schedule, as required by the project documents.

The two partners RNA and EAMA continued their cooperation, participated in two meetings, in Ruse and Giurgiu and joined efforts with regards to the project activities.

All required project activities were accomplished during this reporting period as provided in the Application Form and the expenses were within the budget limits.

The consultant for the elaboration of the preliminary study and the data collection was contracted by the RNA and the developed study is under evaluation by the RNA Implementation Team and the partners from Bulgaria. (EAMA and their Consultant)

During this period, project activities were continued by RNA and EAMA teams and a number of internal meetings took place within each team members establishing steps to follow fore activities.

Meeting and activities within the Project took place according to the calendar.

1. Work Package M “Project Management”

Within the reporting period, the two Project Partners coordinated the day-to-day implementation of the activities, provided sound financial and technical management of the project and organized and conducted the necessary procedures for the procurement of goods and services.

The partnership maintained regular communication with the Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority of the INTERREG V-A RO-BG Programme regarding the reporting of the project implementation, notifications to the subsidy and co-financing contracts and reimbursement of certified expenditures. The two Partners have been strictly



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supervising and monitoring the achievement of the project's results and indicators, according to the approved Application form.

Under the awarded by EAMA contract for project management support, two tender dossiers related to the implementation of WP T1 were prepared. One of the dossiers is for the development of preliminary study and data collection (Activity T1.1), organization and conduct of a Transport safety Expert and Stakeholder meeting in Ruse (Activity T1.1) and development of an Action Plan (Activity T1.5). The second dossier is for the award of the preparation of a technical specification for transport safety IT tool with components and modules for Romania and Bulgaria (Activity T1.2).

Within RNA the project management was carried out by the implementation unit with the assistance of the Consultant team, which were selected following a procurement procedure.

During the two meetings in Ruse and Giurgiu with the stakeholders involved in emergency response on Danube River, the project teams also analysed the status of the project and the actions to be taken in the next period.

The applicable transparency rules have been observed during the reporting period.

Regular Team Meetings

On the 21th of August, 2019, the second Regular Team Meeting of the two project implementation teams took place in Constanta. During the event, the two Partners discussed the overall management and the financial progress and reporting of the project. The main focus of the meeting was put on the implementation of Activity T1.1 "Development of preliminary study and data collection" of Work Package T1.

2. Work Package C "Communication"

In line with the communication plan of the Project and in particular with Activity C.4 - Promotional materials, WP C, in June, 2019 EAMA signed a contract with external service provider. During the reported period, promotional materials for the popularization of the project were designed and elaborated. Some of the items were distributed during the Transport Safety Expert and Stakeholder Meeting held by EAMA on the 8th of October 2019 in Ruse and some were handed over to the Project partner. The remaining materials will be distributed among the stakeholders during the upcoming public project events and other occasions.

EAMA has also started work on the development of the Danube Safety Net project official website, in line with Activity C.5 "Digital activities".

Under activity AC 4 - The approval for the 8 banners regarding identity manual accomplish was obtained and production order was launched and completed and the 8 outdoor banners were finished and delivered to RNA.





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Also, it was discussed the elaboration of the informational site and the elaboration of the online platform under activity AC 5 - during the meetings of the implementation unit to establish which site model and the communication platform will be adopted, for the best results in carrying out the activity.

3. Work Package T1 “Measures for improvement of river transport safety”

Work Package T1 is the core work package of the project and includes five logically interconnected activities. Its implementation started in August, 2019 and all the start-up activities in the reviewed period were successfully implemented.

Following the start of WP T1 and on the basis of the delivered under WP M tender dossiers, EAMA launched two public procurements and signed contracts for the implementation of the WP T1’s activities.

On 30.08.2019 EAMA and STOP FIRE Ltd. signed a contract for the implementation of Activity T1.1 and T1.5. The external service included preparation of a preliminary research and initial data collection of the business processes, including presentation of the results and preparation of a common Action plan for carrying out common rescue activities on the Danube river between EAMA and RNA. The results of the externalized activities were presented during the Transport Safety Expert and Stakeholder Meeting, held on the 8.10.2019 in Ruse. The meeting organized by the contractor was held under the motto “Traditions and Innovations in the Search and Rescue Activities on the Danube river” and was attended by 60 participants.

On the 01.10.2019 EAMA signed a contract with SERVICE CENTRIX Ltd. (Activity T1.2) for the preparation of technical specification and requirements for IT Tool for Danube transport safety. As a result, the technical specification and requirements for the IT Tool for the Bulgarian module were successfully delivered by the contractor within the reported period, as the findings of the research and collected information about the business processes from the implementation of Activity T1.1 were used within the process.

Given that the two Partners have been working jointly on the preparation of the technical specifications for the Bulgarian and Romanian modules of the Danube transport safety geographic information system, the Romanian Naval Authority also started the acquisition procedure for Technical specifications for DT GIS.

The activity A.T. 1.1 is almost completed, RNA engaged the consultant which conducted the deep research and data collection of the business processes and existing communication between the partnering institutions, RNA and EAMA.



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The RNA team participated in Ruse on 8 October 2019 and Giurgiu on 13 November 2019 at meetings for stakeholders involved in emergency response on Danube River, organized by the Bulgarian and Romanian consultants, where were presented the preliminary study of each, the research findings and best practices used were also discussed.

The study elaborated by the consultant were submitted to the Bulgarian partners for evaluation and will be integrated in the final common study for the next activities of the project.

The RNA team is working for the tender procedure for the acquisition of the consultant which will elaborate the Technical specifications for transport safety IT tool with components and modules for Romania and Bulgaria - activity A.T. 1.2.

The RNA Implementation Unit together with the external consultant worked on the elaboration of the technical specifications for the next procurement Elaboration of technical specification for IT solution tool for improvement of navigation safety on Danube river including system project.

Technical specifications were elaborated together with the external consultant for the acquisition "Supply of 2 vessels". The signing of the final form of the technical specifications will follow and the the start of the procedure of acquisition (April-May 2020)

Deliverable - D.T.1.1.1 Preliminary study (in English and Romanian languages) + Giurgiu meeting documents.

With regards to the implementation of Activity T1.3 "Establishment of Emergency response centers in Bulgaria", the two Partners started preparation of technical specifications for the supply of multipurpose non-self-propelled crafts in Bulgaria and multipurpose vessels in Romania.

III. What's next?

The reviewed period was marked with the start of the core work package of the project and significant progress was reported on its implementation.

Following the successful completion of the first two Activities of Work Package T1, the partnership will focus on the establishment of the Emergency Rescue Centers (ERC) in Ruse and Lom (Activity T1.3) and in Turnu Magurele (Activity T1.4).

The implementation of Activity T1.3 and Activity T1.4 will include:

- Supply and integration of the Danube Transport Safety Geographic Information System and specialized hardware equipment on which the system will operate;
- Supply of 2 multipurpose non-self propelled crafts for EAMA and 2 multipurpose vessels for RNA.



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