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# Danube Safety Net Project

## Progress Report № 3

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 (March, 2020 - August, 2020) - Summary

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

Both partners, RNA and EAMA, continued their cooperation, participated in a meeting on March 4-6, 2020 in Ruse and joined efforts with regards to the project activities.

During this meeting, there was presented and handed over a series of promotional items, in line with Activity AC4, (T-shirts (70 pcs), Rain Ponchos (70 pcs), Hats (100 pcs), Pens (200 pcs)), in order to improve the visibility of our project.

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

During this period, project activities were continued by RNA and EAMA teams through virtual meetings (Zoom), that took place within each team members establishing steps to follow for 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



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SAFETY NET

the project implementation, notifications to the subsidy and co-financing contracts and reimbursement of certified expenditures. The two Partners have been strictly supervising and monitoring the achievement of the project's results and indicators, according to the approved Application form.

In early June, the scope statements for acquisitions were shared by RNA. The acquisitions referred to:

- Development of common technical specifications for the IT-DTSGIS system (Danube Transport Safety Geographical Information System)
- Elaboration of technical specifications for ships

Clarifications were issued, with regard to these two procurement procedures, thus being required specialized support and assistance of the Romanian consultant (SMART MIND SOLUTIONS SRL) in wording the answers to the clarifications. RNA jointed efforts with it's consultant in order to have a sound evaluation of the submitted offers. The following were proposed as experts co-opted in the bid evaluation commission: Constantin Andreea Raluca, Eugen Tudor.

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

## 2. Work Package C “Communication”

EAMA, in line with Activity C.5 “Digital activities”, launched the Danube Safety Net project official website: [www.danubesafety.net](http://www.danubesafety.net) on June, 2020. Currently, the website translation in Romanian is in progress.

Also, the online platform under the same activity AC 5 has been launched on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

Figure 1. Website Homepage



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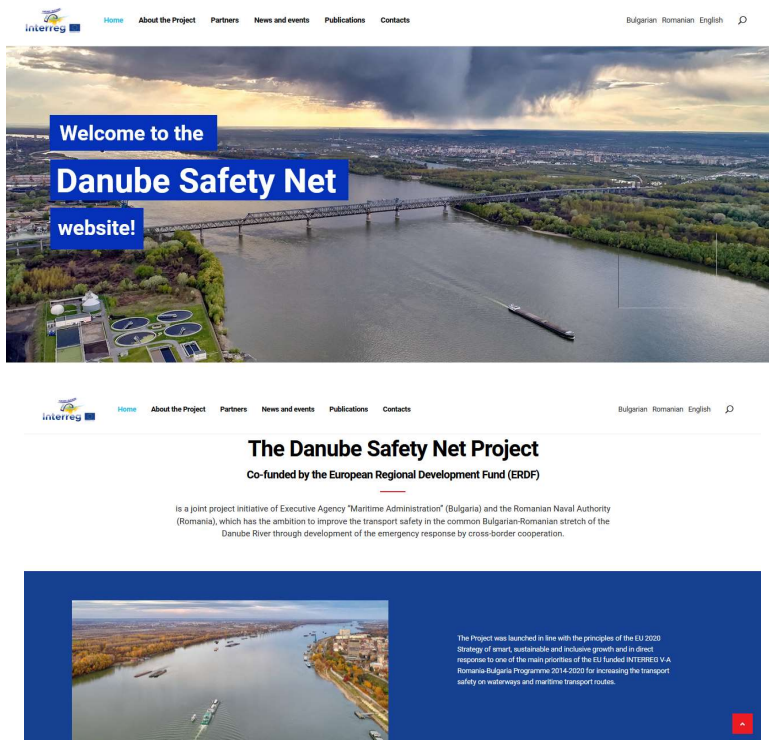


Figure 2. Website Homepage



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Figure 3. Website Homepage

RNA launched the collaboration and project management web portal, a very important tool, in consideration of our project, designed by Crucial Systems & Services, using Microsoft's SharePoint Online capabilities. In this regard, the developer had into consideration project management standard requirements, accessibility, as well with collaboration functionalities. The main components of the Application are:

- The web portal: <https://PORTAL.RNA.RO/DSNPM>
- The project management application: <https://AUTORITATEANAVALAROMANA.SHAREPOINT.COM/SITES/DSNPM>

At the time being, all parties involved are collaborating through these instruments, sharing work and useful content.

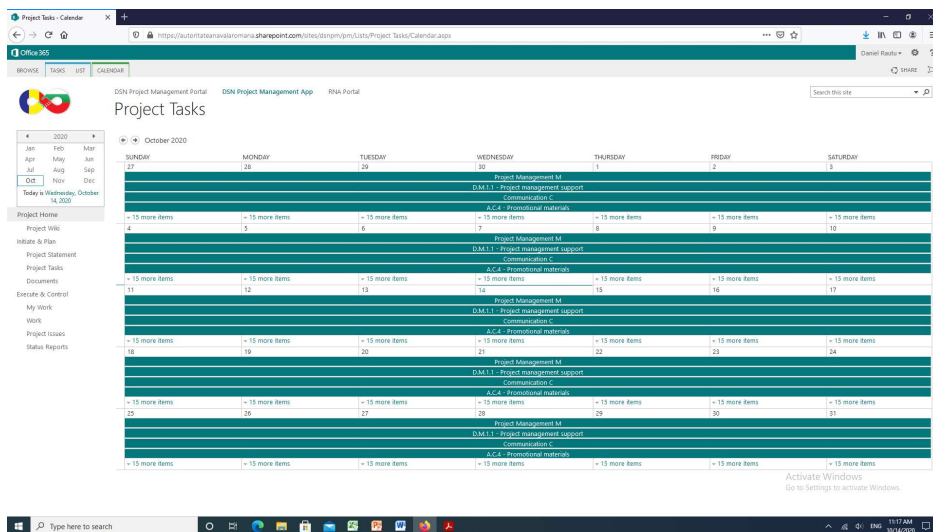


Figure 4. Collaborative calendar

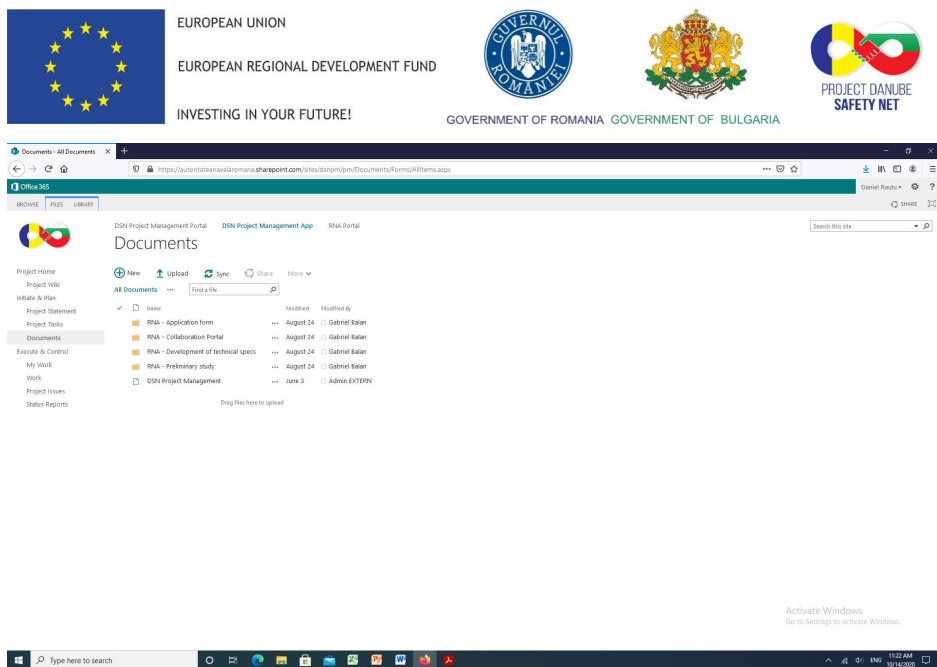


Figure 5. Document library

The project partners took over the idea of a project extension due to probable factors that will require more time for the project's activities to be properly implemented and delivered. Although discussed, both parties concluded that this is not the case at the moment but considered it as a decision for the future.

### 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.

At the end of 2019, following conducted tender procedure, EAMA awarded the preparation Following the start of WP T1 and on the basis of the delivered under WP M tender dossier of technical specification and requirements for IT Tool for Danube transport safety. On the basis of the prepared technical specification and requirements, pursuant to the provisions of the National procurement law, s, on the 20.05.2020 a contract for the the supply and integration of Danube Transport Safety Geographical

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SAFETY NET

Information System and supply of equipment for the Emergency Rescue Centers in Bulgaria was EAMA signed. launched two public procurements and signed contracts for the implementation of the WP T1's activities.

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 RNA Implementation Unit, together with the external consultant together and with the external consultant for the acquisition "Supply of 2 vessels", 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 and, consequently, launched 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 procedure has been awarded to BAS CONSULTING SRL.

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:

- Agreement on data exchange speciationspecification and content for the GIS system
- 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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Within the Activity AC.4 of Work Package C “Communication” parties will ensure to provide promotional materials (calendars, memory sticks and promotional leaflets) for all participants, in order to improve the visibility of our project.

Within the activity AC.5- of Work Package C “Communication”, RNA will provide EAMA the Romanian translation of the project website.

In the next period there will be an online regular team meeting, the date of which will be commonly decided by partners.



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