

7th – 8th of November, 2006

Budapest - Hungary

Summary report

From November 7 to 8, 2006 about 80 experts of on the whole 13 countries - including all Danube states except Moldova - met in Budapest in Hungary for the “DISC´06”. This meeting was the fifth event of such kind taking place on an almost annual basis. The general organisation of the DISC was done by the “GIS Forum Danube”. The close co-operation with the Danube Commission led to the situation that they provided the patronage for all of these meetings. Nevertheless, local organisation is regarded as a vital requirement for these meetings. Based on the big success of the first four workshops (Budapest in 2002, Odessa in 2003, Galati in 2004 and Belgrade 2006) this year Hungary expressed its interest in organising the meeting in its country. This proposal was very much appreciated by the members of the “GIS Forum Danube” and finally RSOE, was responsible for the local organisation of this event.

Based on the agenda the morning of the first day of the workshop was reserved for status reports in all the member states of the Danube Commission. These presentations were meant to provide information on what national achievements have been gained. Respective activities were meant to be in the field of River Information Services (RIS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and differential positioning systems (dGNSS). The series of presentations have shown that amazing results have been achieved in all countries with regard to implementation of RIS components. Compared to the first workshop in 2002 an amazing rise of know-how and extensive results in implementation could be seen.

All countries on the Upper and Lower Danube have already beacons for positioning signals in operation. Inland ECDIS charts are widely produced and in some countries already provided for inland navigation. Notices to skippers are also implemented. Finally – even beyond the scope of the RIS Directive of the European Commission

(Directive EC/2005/44) – AIS infrastructure is currently implemented along most of the Danube.

Respective implementation activities are also carried out in the Czech Republic. Many presentations during the two days have shown that already many activities are done based on these first results: harmonisation of cross-border procedures, dangerous cargo monitoring, accident data bases and implementation projects.

Each day a special session was reserved for private companies to present their software solutions. Within this group of presentations the participants learned about the needs and demands of the skippers, how DGPS beacons can be linked, a software tool which is able to convert from GIS into ENC format and new applications and potential of Inland AIS.

The second day started with a series of presentations from the GIS Forum work packages. Here the main focus was set on ENC harmonisation and distribution, results of the IALA questionnaire which had the aim to check available equipment and future plans. Furthermore the status of the data exchange was presented as well as a proposal concerning gauge information.

In the afternoon of the second day the workshops was closed and the Hungarian delegation was gratefully thanked for the organisation of the conference and the special hospitality in Budapest.

All important documents will be provided on the website of the “GIS Forum Danube” www.gis-forum.org. In addition the presentations will be provided on a CD in a format similar to the past workshops.