



Memorandum „GIS Forum Danube“



Regensburg, September 13th, 2005 – Version 2.0

Gelöscht: Vienna

Gelöscht: January 27th

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Introduction – History:

The „GIS Forum Danube“ was founded in 1997 as a trilateral working group by the waterway directorates from Germany, Austria and Slovakia. As common goals these members defined the development of an intensive exchange of geographical data and a close cooperation in the field of waterway management along the Danube waterway. Since 1999 the group has been supported by the Danube Commission and had been asked to handle topics related to River Information Services (RIS). At this time the name of this trilateral working group was changed into “GIS Forum Danube”. In the following Hungary joined the meetings in 2000, Croatia in 2002, Romania as well as the Ukraine in 2003 and Serbia and Montenegro as well as Bulgaria in 2004. Finally Russia became first observer and afterwards full member in 2005.

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Nowadays European states grow together and the European Union is extending towards the East. Therefore it is of utmost importance that inland navigation along the Danube waterway can rely on internationally interoperable systems. Following this purpose the European Union has agreed on inviting European countries to implement pan-European River Information Services (RIS) by the end of 2005 at the conference of ministers of transport in Rotterdam (September 2001). By following these demands the “GIS Forum Danube” also guarantees the implementation of vital basic conditions along the European Corridor VII in line with the White Book of the European Commission (Brussels 12/09/2001).

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Basic rules:

The basic task of the „GIS Forum Danube“ is the harmonization of geographical information in the member states, taking into account international technical as well as quality related standards. The provision and maintenance of such information shall be provided and maintained within a transnational data warehouse for RIS and additional waterway related applications. In addition the „GIS Forum Danube“ shall define and determine infrastructure for the implementation of a common and internationally compatible RIS.

Considering these tasks the „GIS Forum Danube“ is regarding the participation of all countries along the Danube waterway as being of utmost importance. They shall take over all described tasks as a constant committee. All member states can contract private or semi-public bodies to take over these tasks on their behalf.

Effective international standards (e.g. Inland ECDIS and dGNSS according to IALA recommendations) and European guidelines are regarded as a fundamental basis for all works and shall be taken over. In the run of common works Danube wide demands and experiences shall be collected and delivered to international standardization bodies in order to ensure their consideration.

Results and decisions are to be regarded as recommendations; for their implementation international standards shall be regarded as binding. The commonly passed results shall be presented to the Danube Commission in order to recommend them for resolution. Therefore the secretariat of the Danube Commission, as well as additional institutions and countries are invited to the meetings of the „GIS Forum Danube“ as appropriate.

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Tasks and goals:

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On basis of the mentioned basic rules the „GIS Forum Danube“ shall fulfil the following rules:

- Implementation of a cross-border, geo-related data warehouse as a basis for River Information Services and trans-national applications. Following applications are taken into consideration:

- Development of electronic navigation charts according to the Inland ECDIS standard.
- Trans-national calamity abatement
- Cross-border ecological land register
- Development of a touristic information system
- Definition and development of software tools for conversion of data from national databases into the data warehouse and furthermore into international applications.
- Basic rules for generation of geo-related data and definition of minimum quality standards.
 - Sounding data
 - Chart data
 - Hydrological data
- Exchange of information and experiences concerning the usage of digital terrain models as well as hydrological models as well as definitions of links to international applications.
- Definition and matching of common, trans-national basic infrastructure in support of RIS – e.g. installation of augmentation positioning signals according to the recommendation of IALA.
- Support to the Danube Commission in the field of standards related to RIS
 - RIS guidelines of PIANC/CCNR
 - Inland ECDIS Standard
 - Electronic Ship Reporting Standard
 - Standard for Notices to Skippers
 - Tracking and Tracing Standard (main focus shall be on Inland AIS Standard)
- Specific topics:
 - Matching of conversion of coordinates from national into common international systems.
 - Definition of common rules for the implementation of digital paper charts of the Danube Commission (“Carte de pilotage”)

← --- **Formatiert:** Nummerierung und Aufzählungszeichen

These tasks may change according to political and technical developments. As a result all works of the „GIS Forum Danube“ shall remain flexible.
 In the run of current and future tasks and goals of the “GIS Forum Danube” the effort for subsidies of the European Union shall be a vital goal.

Organisation:

The „GIS Forum Danube“ is divided into a „Steering Committee“ and several work packages according to the above listed tasks and goals. The common language in all these groups shall be English as long as no other languages are commonly found as being appropriate. Independent of subsidies each member state is responsible for financing its own costs in the frame of its activities within the “GIS Forum Danube”. Costs of the technical secretariat shall be financed by subsidies and/or means of the member states.

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Steering Committee:

Members: 1 to 2 persons per member state including all work package leaders
 Chairman and one vice chairman for 4 years
 Technical secretariat for 4 years

Agreements shall be passed on qualified majority among present representatives of the Member states in the sense of the “GIS Forum Danube”. Each present member state shall be granted one vote in the Steering Committee. Member States, which are not present in the meeting of the Steering Committee may transfer their right to vote to another Member States in advance of the meeting (by means of written announcement to the chairman, the vice chairman or the technical secretariat). If this does not take place agreements are done without participation of the related non-participating country.
Changes of this memorandum of understanding are passed in unison among present Member States.

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Three meetings per year shall take place at changing places. On demand additional meetings may be organised.

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Tasks of the steering committee:

- Strategic decisions
- Definition of tasks
- Coordination of work packages
- Representation to the outside world (organisations and official bodies)

Work packages:

According to the tasks and goals six work packages are defined in the first run:

- Work package 1: Data warehouse
- Work package 2: Software tools
- Work package 3: Geo-related basic data
- Work package 4: Geomorphological and hydrological models
- Work package 5: Infrastructure
- Work package 6: RIS Standards

Gelöscht: GIS

Formatiert: Englisch (Großbritannien)

Eingefügt: GIS and hydrological

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Formatiert: Englisch (Großbritannien)

Gelöscht: GNSS

Eingefügt: GNSS

Gelöscht: Specific topics

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Within these work packages members shall deal with and work out tasks, defined by the Steering Committee.

At maximum two experts of each member state shall take part in the work packages. Members of each work package nominate one leader. Meetings take place on demand. Work package leaders shall present status reports and results to the Steering Committee in written and verbal form. On demand work package leaders may nominate a representative for these tasks.

Work packages of the "GIS Forum Danube" shall always consider results and activities within European projects as main input for their works.

GIS Workshops Danube:

The „GIS Forum Danube“ shall organise one “GIS Workshop Danube” per year in one of the member states. At these workshops all member states shall provide a general overview of national results and activities. Topics of superior importance shall be considered in the workshop, too. Political guidelines and relating influence on the activities of the “GIS Forum Danube” shall also be discussed.

The Member states:

Countries, which are not yet members are listed in brackets.

- Germany
- Austria
- Slovakia
- Hungary
- Croatia
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Bulgaria
- Romania
- (Moldova)
- The Ukraine
- Russia

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Observers:

The Danube Commission

Formatiert: Schriftart: (Standard) Arial, 11 pt, Italienisch (Italien)

Only the English version of this memorandum is regarded as the original document.