

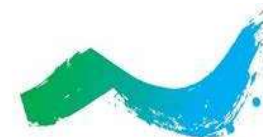
Interreg
Danube Region



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UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE
FACULTY OF TRANSPORT
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Global Water
Partnership
Central and Eastern Europe

Flowing Forward: Youth for sustainable river transport

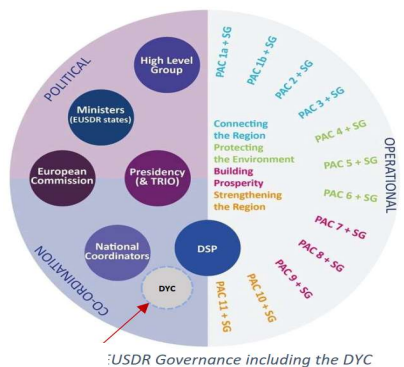
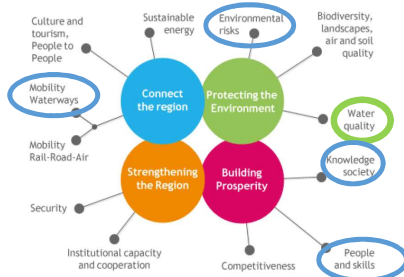
International webinar



Welcome

May 14th, 10:00-11:30 CET

Youth Inclusion as a Strategic Priority in the Danube Macro-Region



- The **EUSDR** increasingly promotes youth inclusion in line with the **EU Youth Strategy**, focusing on empowerment, participation, and cross-border collaboration.

EUSDR Initiatives:

- DYC – Danube Youth Council**
Youth voice in EUSDR governance
- DYON – Danube Youth Organizations Network**
Platform for youth organization cooperation

Complementary Initiative:

- SCYP – Sava Youth Parliament**
ISRBC-led; supports youth in river basin management

*“Employability refers to the **combination of factors** which enable individuals to progress towards or **gain employment**, to stay in employment and to progress during their career.”*

And a new one:

DanuRELY – WS: *Danube Region's Youth Leadership in Ensuring Resilience through a Proactive Approach in Water Sector*

Cross-cutting Focus and Shared Challenge:

- Employability and brain drain** – A key challenge across **water-related sectors**, including **river transport**, where attracting, motivating, and retaining young professionals remains difficult despite emerging opportunities.

Innovation vs. Perception Gap in River Transport

- **River transport is becoming more attractive**
Through innovations such as autonomous vessels, smart navigation, and green inland ports
- **But youth interest isn't following**
Despite modernization, the sector still struggles to attract young people and retain them in long-term careers. To many young people, it still appears traditional, physically demanding, and less appealing than other career paths.
- **A disconnect persists**
Between the opportunities being created and the way they are perceived by younger generations

What must change to make this transformation visible, relevant, and engaging to young people?

Webinar Agenda

Flowing Forward: Youth for sustainable river transport



Innovations in River Transport

- ⚓ *Autonomous waterborne logistics – exploring the future of smart operation of inland waterway transport, Cyril Alias, DST, Duisburg, Germany*
- ⚓ *Green Inland Ports – innovations transforming inland ports into sustainable hubs, Saša Jovanović, iC consulenten Ziviltechniker GesmbH, Wien, Austria*

Youth Inspiration & Engagement

- ⚓ *Early-career exploration and innovation in river transport, Anita Abodi, Department for waterborne transportation, FTTE, Belgrade, Serbia*
- 🌐 ***Danube Youth Council** –avenues for young people to engage in shaping policies and initiatives, Irene Schnait, Danube Strategy Point*



Meet our speakers

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Cyril Alias

Scientific Researcher at Dep.
of Logistics & Transportation

Development Centre for Ship
Technology and Transport
Systems, Duisburg, Germany



Saša Jovanović, PhD

Expert for shipping and ports

iC consulenten Ziviltechniker
GesmbH, Wien, Austria



Anita Abođi

Research and Teaching assistant
at the Department for
waterborne transportation

Faculty of Transport and
Traffic Engineering,
University of Belgrade
Serbia



Irene Schnait

Project Officer at Danube
Strategy Point

EUSDR – European Union
Strategy for Danube Region
DYC – Danube Youth Council



How can we attract more young people to pursue careers in inland waterborne transport

Question	Your Reflection
1. What are we doing right?	(What is already working well and producing positive results?)
2. What are we doing wrong?	(Are there any practices creating negative effects?)
3. What are we not using effectively?	(Are there existing resources or tools we are underutilizing?)
4. What is missing?	(Is there something not yet developed that could bring benefits?)
5. What is your idea?	(What new proposals or insights would you like to share?)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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