



DANUBEPARKS

The Danube River Network of Protected Areas

Erfahrungen internationaler Zusammenarbeit

Dritter Internationaler Inn-Dialog

2. Juni 2022, Innsbruck

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Duna Ipoly National Park (Ungarn)





Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Romania)



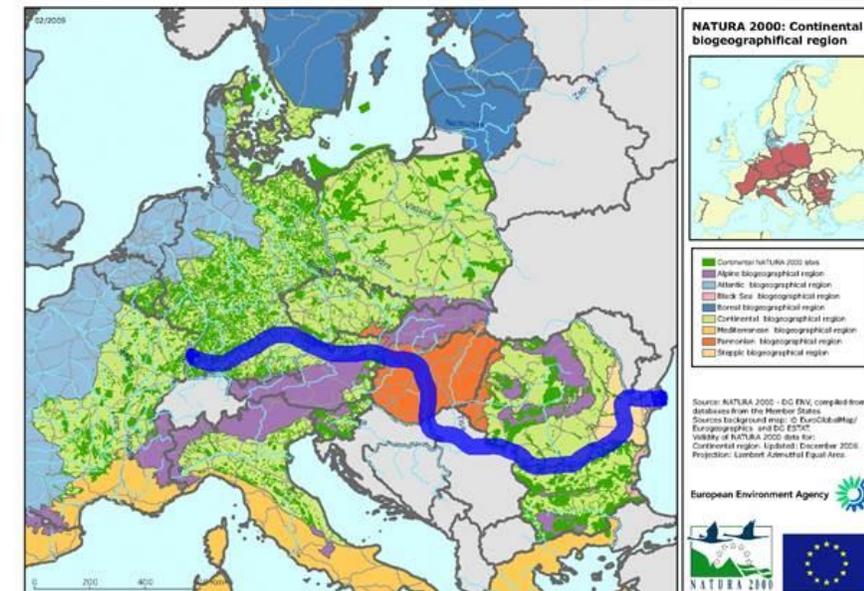
Nature doesn't recognize borders

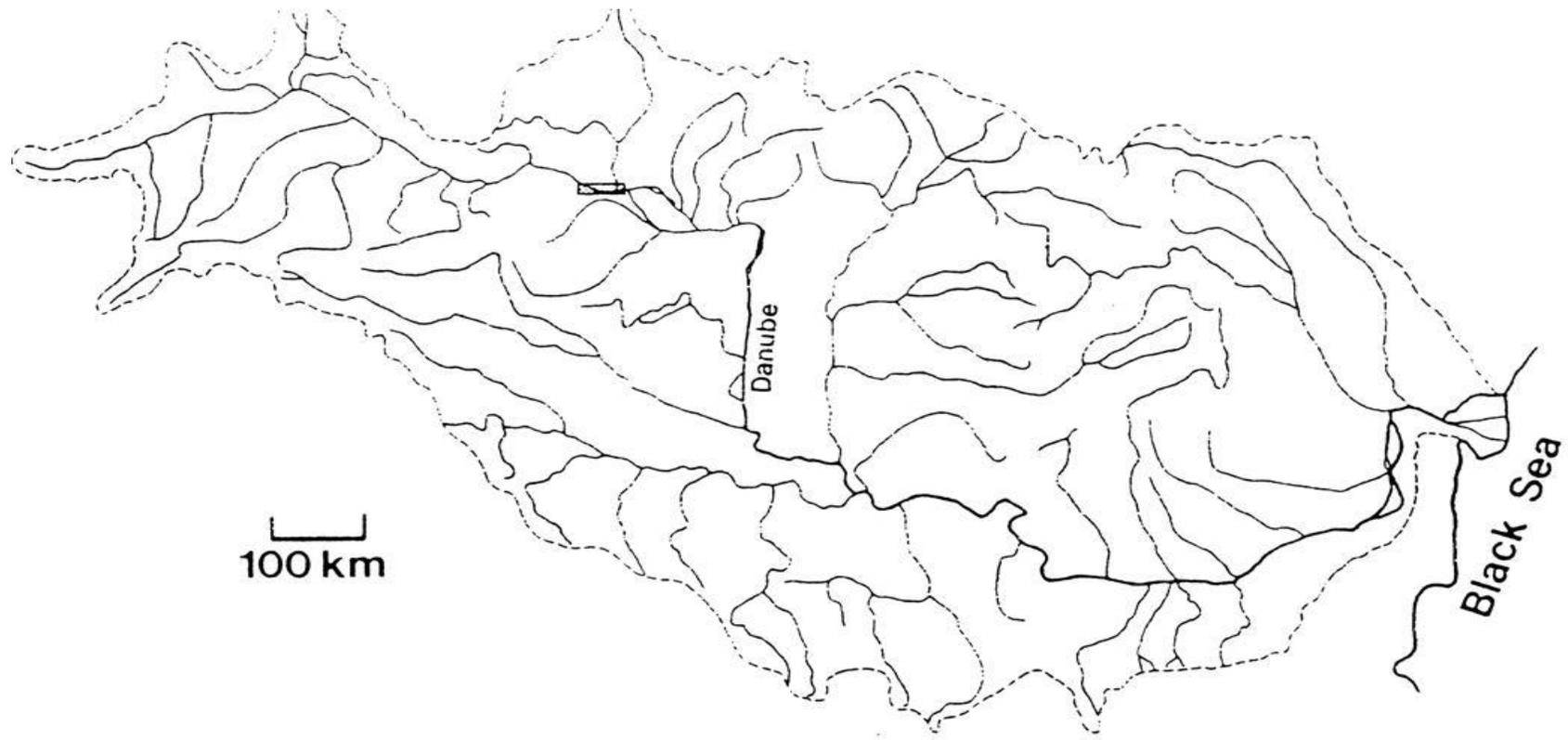
Die Donau

- der internationalste Fluss der Erde
- hot-spot der Artenvielfalt
- ökologischer Korridor von europäischer Bedeutung

Die Donau-Schutzgebiete

- Kerngebiete für (europäischen) Naturschutz
- Expertise & Erfahrung im Naturraummanagement
- gemeinsame Herausforderungen
- gemeinsame Rahmenbedingungen (EU Richtlinien, EUSDR)





- 1 Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve
- 2 Lower Prut Natura Reserve
- 3 Small Wetlands of Braila
- 4 Rusenski Lom Nature Park
- 5 Parsina Nature Park
- 6 Iron Gates Natural Park
- 7 Kopačkit Nature Park
- 8 Gornja Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve
- 9 Duna-Dráva National Park
- 10 Duna-Ipoly National Park
- 11 Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area, Fertő-Hanság National Park
- 12 Dunajská Luhy Protected Landscape Area
- 13 Záhonie Protected Landscape Area
- 14 Donau-Auen National Park
- 15 Wachau Protected Landscape Area
- 16 Narrow Valley of the Danube in Passau district
- 17 Donaueisener Auen National Park



DANUBE PARKS
network of protected areas



DANUBE PARKS

Building a Danube-wide perspective

90er Jahre: Gründung der meisten Donau-Schutzgebiete

2000er Jahre: erste bilaterale grenzübergreifende Kooperationen und Projekte einzelner Donau-Schutzgebiete

2007: informelle Kooperation (9 Schutzgebiete, 7 Länder) „Declaration of Tulcea“

2009: donauweite EU-Projekte zur Etablierung des DANUBE PARKS-Netzwerkes
(v.a. Interreg Danube Transnational Programme)

2014: Gründung des Vereines DANUBE PARKS

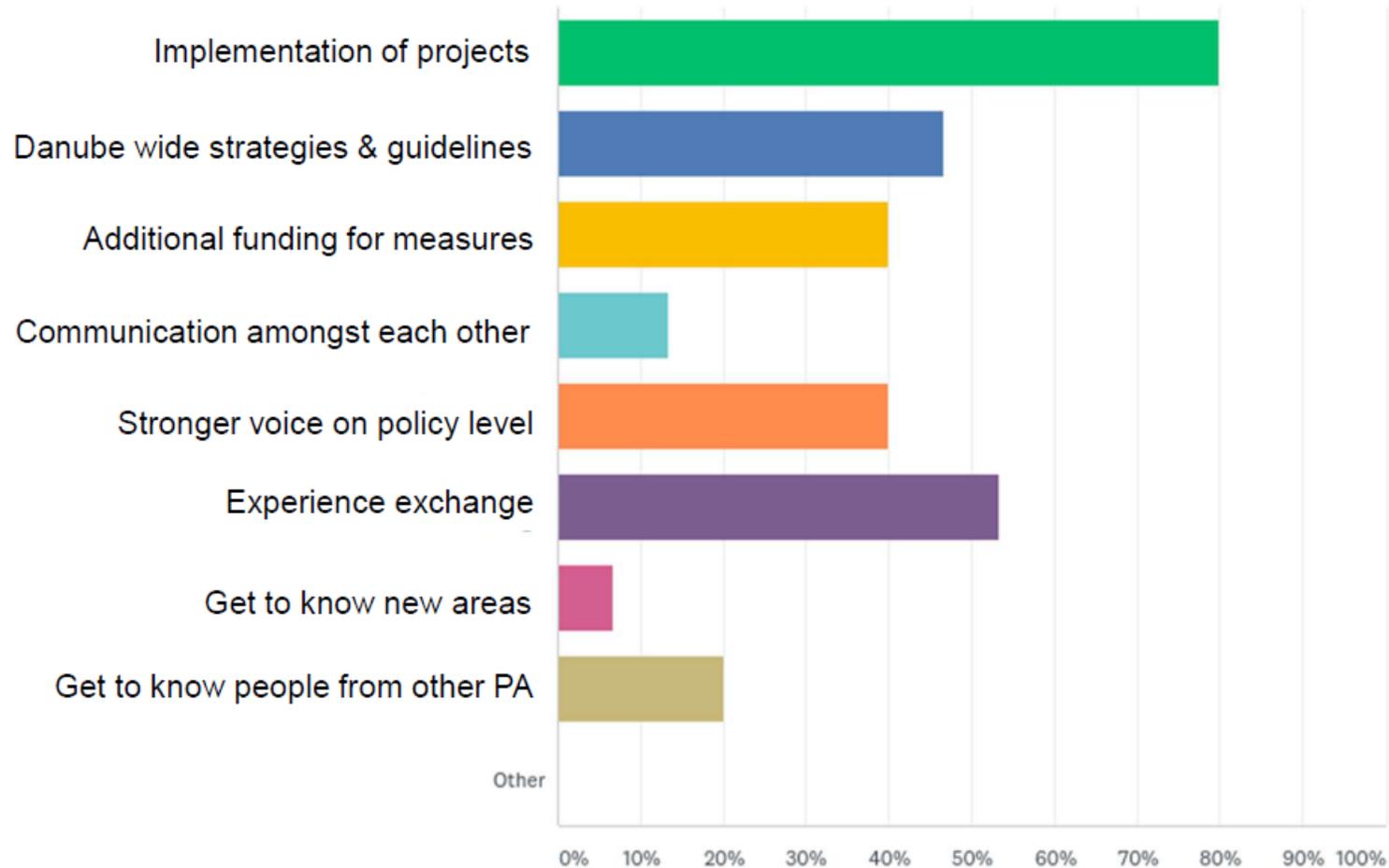
2021: (kontinuierlich) wachsendes Netzwerk (21 Mitglieder, 9 Donauländer)

2020 – 2026: strategische donauweite Umsetzungsprojekte
(LIFE WILDIsland, LIFE Danube Free Sky)

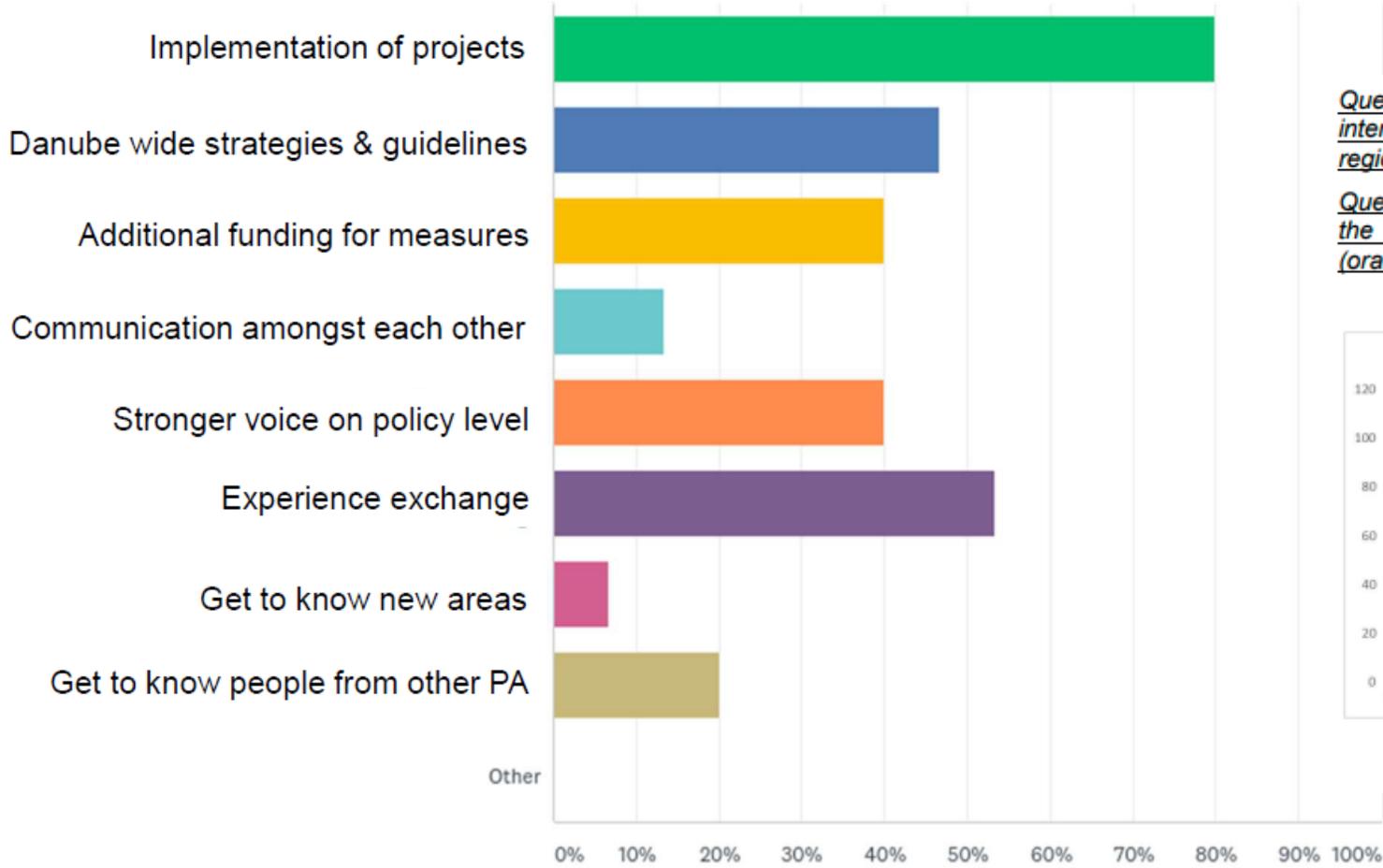
2022: Aufbau des Vereines DANUBE PARKS als Drehscheibe für
transnationale Projekte (Interreg, Horizon, Erasmus)



The main benefits from DANUBEPARKS



The main benefits from DANUBEPARKS



Question: How relevant has the DANUBEPARKS Network been for the international process of nature conservation (green) in the Danube region in the previous 10 years?

Question: How do you rate the benefits of transnational cooperation in the DANUBEPARKS Network for the work of your protected area (orange)?

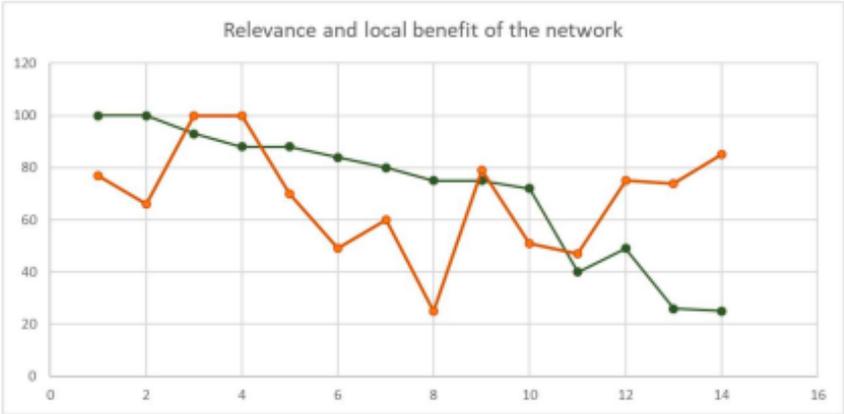


Figure 2: The overall relevance of the network (100=highly relevant; 0=irrelevant)



„...the EU Natura 2000 Award for its **ambitious, friendly and trustworthy** cooperation **crossing all borders** and its **concerted efforts** to preserve the Danube’s natural heritage.“



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DANUBE PARKS





European Commission

CONNECTING THE REGION

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

BUILDING PROSPERITY

STRENGTHENING THE REGION

DANUBE REGION STRATEGY: SUCCESS STORIES



The Danube is the longest river in the European Union and the most international river in the world, stretching 2857 kilometres through ten countries, including dozens of protected areas and national parks. The contribution made by these protected areas to the conservation of Europe's natural heritage is of immense importance now and for future generations.

DANUBE PARKS – the Danube River Network of Protected Areas – was founded in 2007 with the signing of the Declaration of Tulcea in Romania. Joint projects are crucial to achieving the initiative's goals which, along with the continuing informal cooperation from the national parks and protected areas, are made possible mainly by the framework of cooperation across the Danube Region – the EUSDR.

Rivers are interrelated ecosystems, and nature does not recognise borders. Thus, nature conservation efforts along this most international of rivers need to find transnational answers and initiatives.

As stated in the Declaration of Tulcea, the network is determined to improve conservation of the Danube

River Protected Areas, to manage these areas wisely, to exchange and promote management expertise, and to improve knowledge of the river's ecological status, as well as the economic, social and environmental impacts. The network is taking action for the prevention, control and reduction of pollution in the flood plains and wetlands in the Danube Basin, and raising awareness of the river's international importance and of sustainable development.



„It is now a **recognized label** for Nature Conservation in the Danube Region. ...established a **fruitful transfer of know-how**....started **region-wide initiatives**...helped to develop a **stronger voice at the policy level**.“



WILDisland

The Danube WILDisland Habitat Corridor

An aerial photograph of the Lower Danube river in Persina Nature Park, Bulgaria. The river is a deep blue, winding through a landscape of green forests and agricultural fields. A large, prominent sandbar is visible in the center of the river, surrounded by smaller islands and peninsulas. The sandbars are light-colored and contrast with the dark water and green vegetation. In the upper right, several long, narrow barges are visible on the river. The overall scene is a mix of natural beauty and human activity.

**Untere Donau - Persina Nature Park
(Bulgarien)**

Photo: Alexander Ivanov

Obere Donau – Nationalpark Donau-Auen (Österreich)

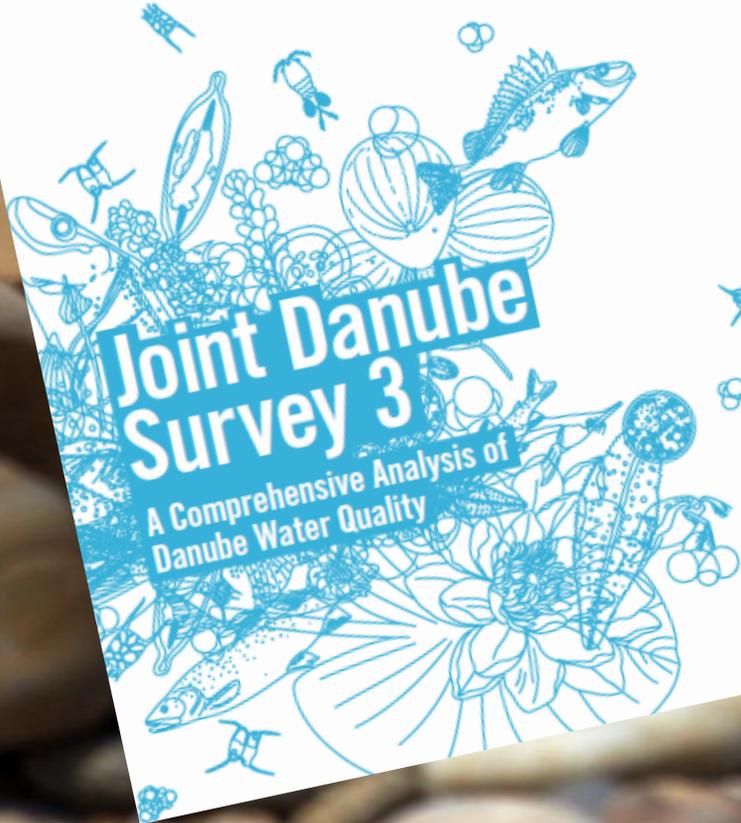


Photo: Georg Frank

Photos: Franz Kern



**>80 % der
Flussregenpfeifer an
der Donau brüten auf
Inseln**





**„Milka island“ - Persina Nature Park
(Bulgarien)**



AT040 PARADEISINSEL

AUSTRIA
48.12075377950, 16.68332212730

CATEGORY: A

AREA: 4,8 ha

ORIGIN: A

HYDRO-MORPHOLOGY: 3

RIVER KM: 1905

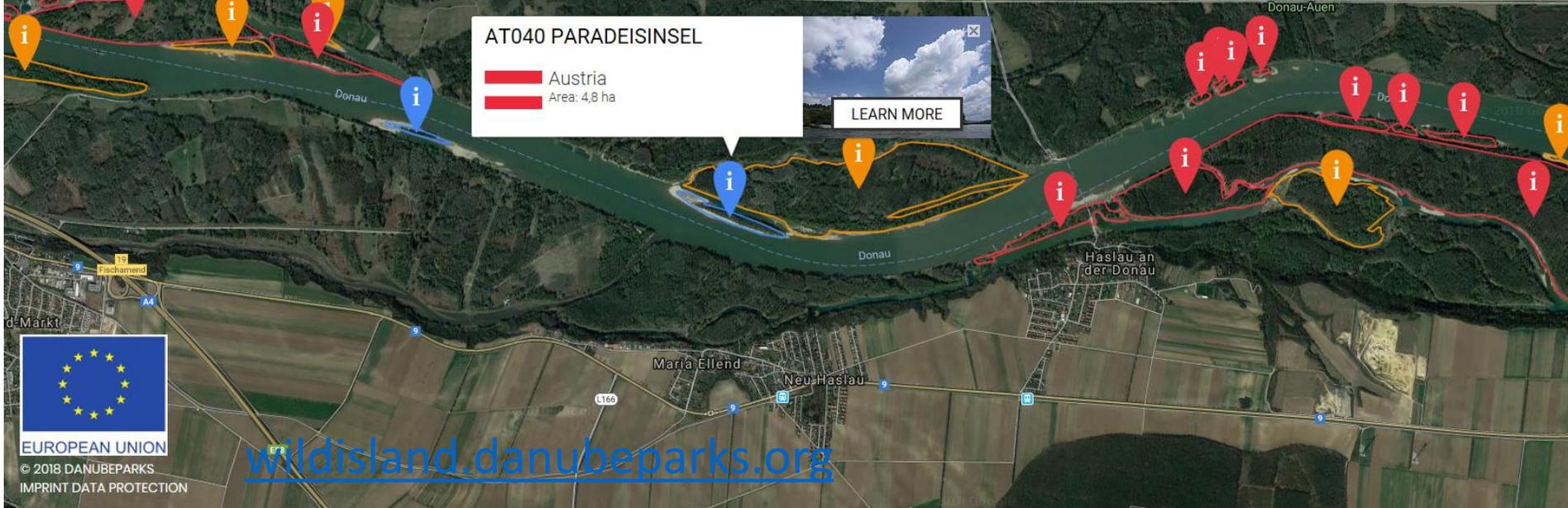
HABITAT CHARACTERISTIC:

PIONEER VEGETATION, BARS AND SOFTWOOD GALLERIES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

LARGE GRAVEL BANKS AND PRIMEVAL FORESTS (IN THE AGE OF APPROX. 30 YEARS) MAKE THIS ISLAND UNIQUE FOR THE UPPER DANUBE. VERY NICE GRADIENT FROM GRAVEL BANKS, WILLOW BUSH VEGETATION TO POPLAR STANDS. IMPORTANT BREEDING SITE FOR LITTLE RINGED PLOVER AND SAND PIPER, THEREFORE, IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THE AREA.
CONSERVATION STATUS: NATIONAL PARK, NATURA 2000

CLOSE

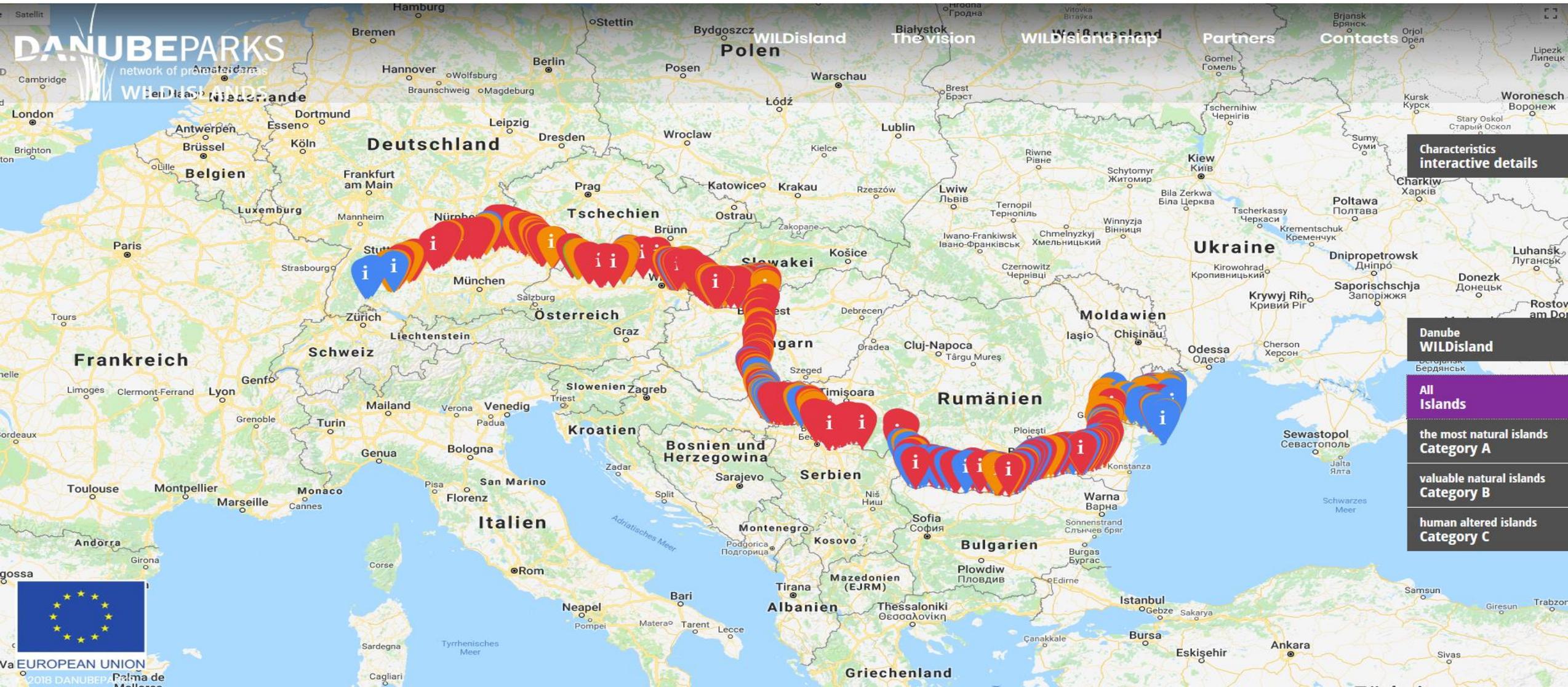




DANUBE PARKS

network of protected areas

WILD ISLANDS





DANUBEPARKS
network of protected areas
WILD ISLANDS

HOME

WILDIsland The vision WILDIsland map Partners Contacts

The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor

- 3,000 river kilometres
- 912 islands
- 138,000 ha of dynamic island habitats
- 147 untouched or completely natural islands
- 14,000 ha of wilderness

Project co-funded by the European Union (ERDF, IPA funds)

Interreg EUROPEAN UNION
Danube Transnational Programme
DANUBEparksCONNECTED

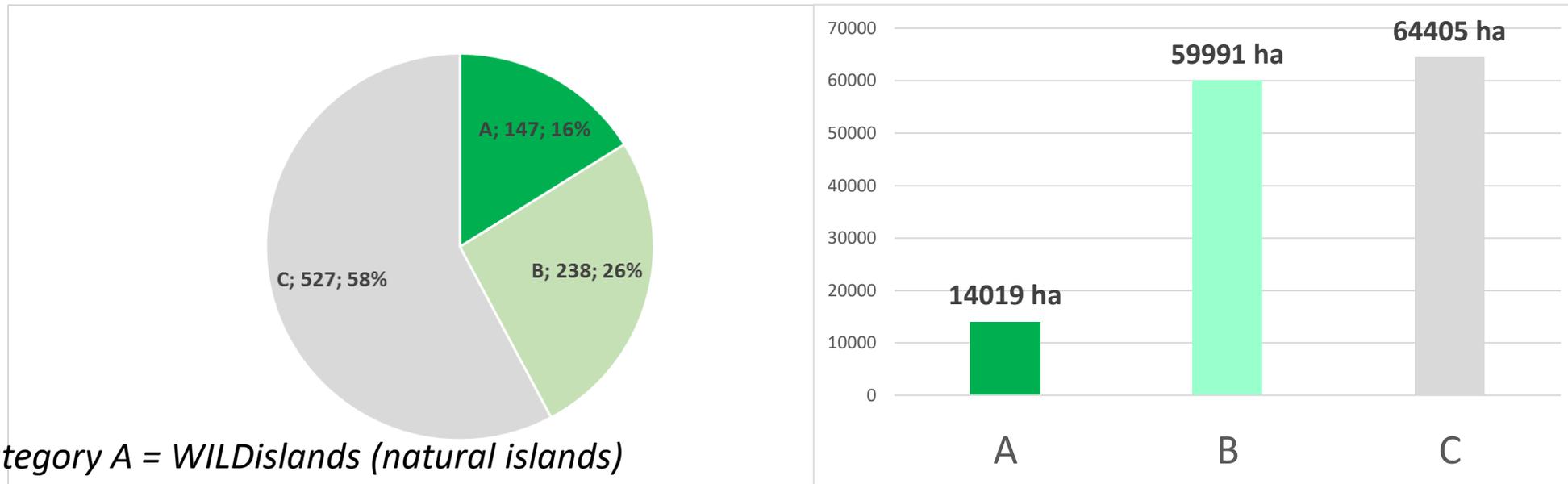
[LEARN MORE](#)

wildisland.danubeparks.org

EUROPEAN UNION
© 2018 DANUBEPARKS
IMPRINT DATA PROTECTION



gesamt: **912 Inseln auf 138.415 ha**



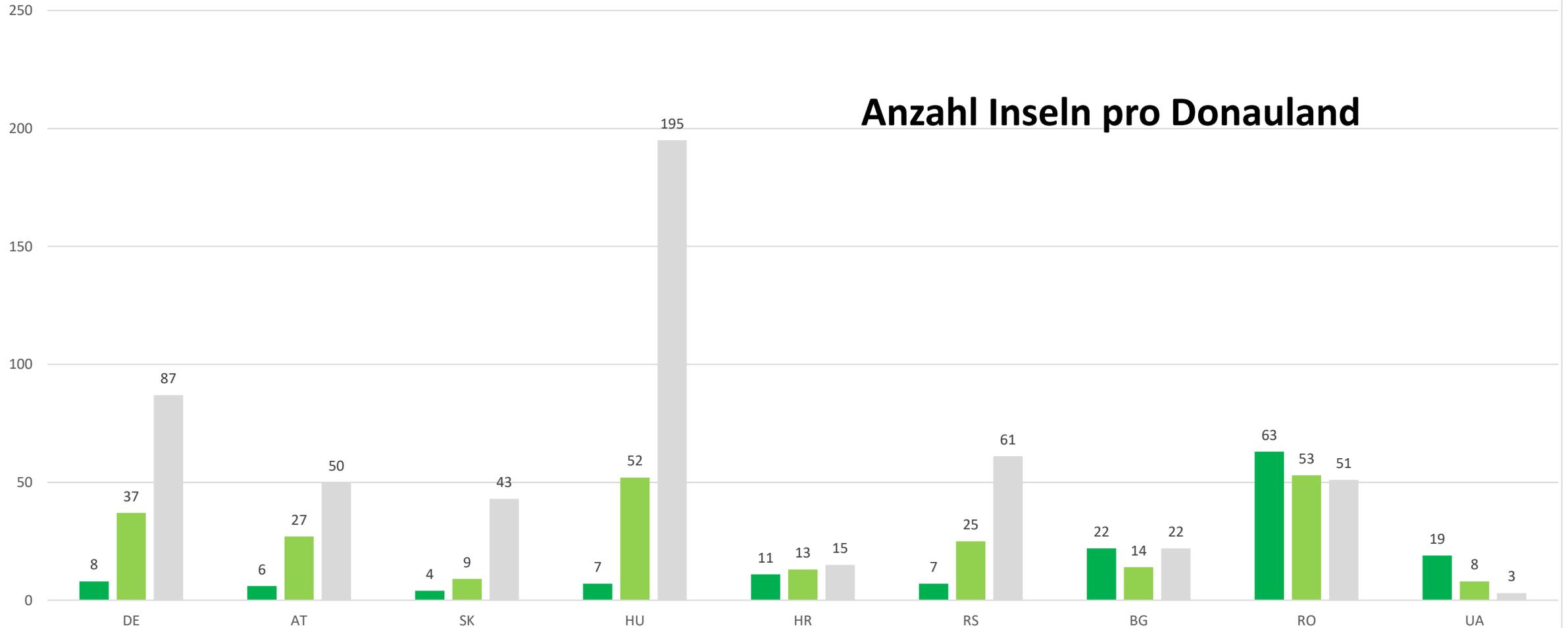
Category A = WILDIslands (natural islands)

Category B = near natural islands (high potential for restoration)

Category C = other islands



Anzahl Inseln pro Donauland



Category A = WILDIslands (natural islands)

Category B = near natural islands (high potential for restoration)

Category C = other islands

■ A ■ B ■ C



LIFE WILDIsland

Laufzeit: 1. Sept. 2021 – 31. Aug. 2027

Budget: 14,2 Mio. € (EU 63,98%)

Zielsetzungen:

- Aufbau/Stärkung eines **donauweiten Lebensverbundes** dynamischer Flusslebensräume mit **Inseln als Trittsteine**
- Schutz der „**Flusswildnis**“ - Wiederherstellung **flussdynamischer Prozesse**
- **sektorenübergreifende Kooperation** (Naturschutz & Schutzgebiete, Wasserstraßenverwaltungen, Energie & Wasserkraft, Forstverwaltungen)
- „**Insel-Korridor**“ als **Beispiel für andere (große) Flüsse (Europas)**

Project summary:

- 15 project partners, 8 countries
- 14,2 Mill. € for island conservation and restoration
- Total number of islands restored: 34
- Total area improved (hydrology and forest management): 1,267 ha
- Total length of bodies re-dynamized: 48,192 m
- WILDIsland Corridor established, coherent management for 147 "A" category islands (natural islands)

1 Mouth of Ussel river

Implementing the "Masterplan for the Bavarian Danube"

- Actions:**
- embankment removal
 - sidearm reconnection

Responsible partner: UNIPER



2 Ingolstadt

Creating a new strictly protected island

- Actions:**
- side branch restoration
 - formation of a new island

Responsible partner: UNIPER



3 Langau-Abwinden

The largest WILDIsland restoration action

- Actions:**
- embankment removal
 - side-restoration, dredging

Responsible partner: Verbund



4 Schwalbeninsel

Initiating a WILDIsland landscape

- Actions:**
- embankment removal
 - groyne adaptation

Responsible partner: via donau, Donau-Auen National Park



5 Sap

Connecting for conservation

- Actions:**
- side arm reconnection
 - reforestation measures
 - Land purchase in SCI Kľučovské luhy/SCI Dunajské luhy

Responsible partner: BROZ



6 Vénéki islands

Alien species management within strictly protected riparian forests

- Actions:**
- invasive species management

Responsible partner: Fortő Hanság National Park Directorate



7 Kľižská Nemá

First ecological groyne adaptation in Slovakia

- Actions:**
- groyne adaptation and dredging
 - natural forest rejuvenation
 - land purchase in SCI Dunajské luhy

Responsible partner: BROZ



8 Erebe islands complex

Complex measures restoring five islands

- Actions:**
- side arm restoration, groyne adaptation
 - invasive tree species eradication

Responsible partner: Fortő Hanság National Park Directorate



9 Tāti islands

Improving habitat conditions of softwood riparian forests

- Actions:**
- invasive tree species management

Responsible partner: Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate



10 Korpádi islands

Opening of groyne for island conservation

- Actions:**
- groyne opening
 - sidearm dredging

Responsible partner: ADUVIZIG, Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate



11 Debrina island

Island restoration on the borderline

- Actions:**
- natural forest rejuvenation
 - invasive species management

Responsible partner: Duna-Dráva National Park Directorate



12 Kopački rit

Forest restoration in the Special Zoological Reserve

- Actions:**
- transformation of plantations
 - planting of native softwood forests

Responsible partner: Nature Park Kopački rit, Hrvatske šume



13 Gornje podunavje

Hydrological restoration on a large scale

- Actions:**
- side arm reconnection, dredging
 - forest management

Responsible partner: Vojvodinašume



14 Palets island

Managing the largest Bulgarian island, acting for other WILDIslands

- Actions:**
- invasive species management

Responsible partner: Persina Nature Park Directorate



15 Danube Delta

Dynamizing "cut-off meanders"

- Actions:**
- main channel and cut-off meander restoration

Responsible partner: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority



16 Danube Delta

Restoring softwood riparian forests

- Actions:**
- forest management actions

Responsible partner: ROMSILVA





1994



2007



2020

Google

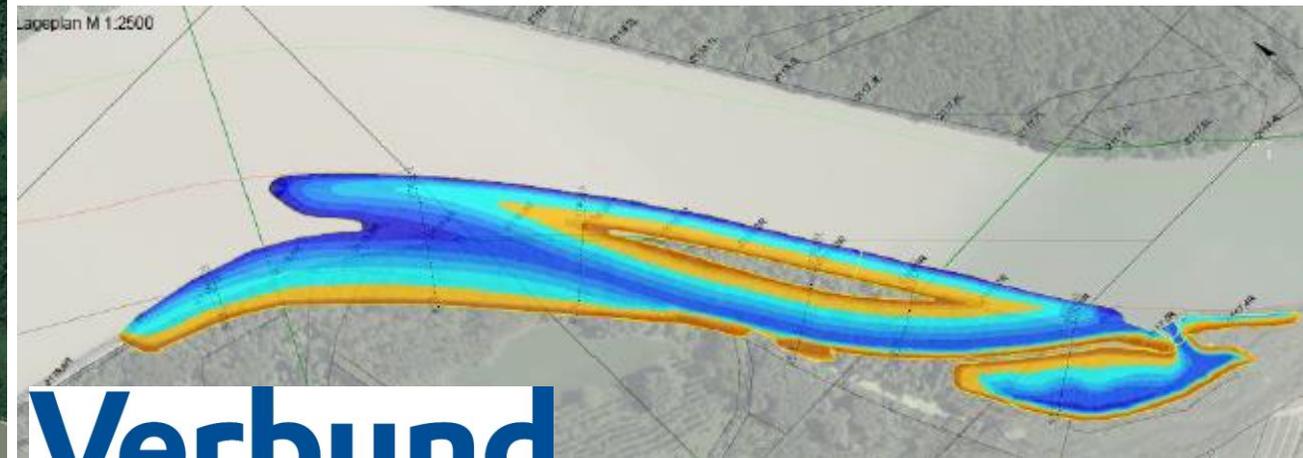


C.2.1. Dynamisierung Insel-Landschaft „Schwalbeninsel“ (Nationalpark Donau-Auen)





C.1.3. Schaffung/Wiederherstellung dynamischer Inselstrukturen in der Stauwurzel Asten-Abwinden (Oberösterreich)



Verbund



Project Partnership:

8 Danube countries, 15 partners, 59 strategic partners

DANUBE PARKS (Network of Protected Areas):

Donau-Auen National Park (AT)

BROZ (SK)

Duna-Ipoly National Park Directorate (HU)

Duna-Dráve National Park Directorate (HU)

Fertő Hanság National Park Directorate (HU)

Nature Park Kopacki rit (HR)

Persina Nature Park Directorate (BG)

Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (RO)

Waterway Administrations:

Viadonau (AT)

ADUVIZIG (HU)

Hydropower:

UNIPER (D)

Verbund Austrian Hydropower (AT)

Forst Enterprises:

Croatian Forest (HR)

Vojvodinašume (RS)

ROMSILVA (RO)

Co-Financing: Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus (AT), Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Fund (HR), Ministry for Agriculture (HU), NÖ Landesfischereiverband (AT), Fischereirevierverband II (AT)





10. Mai 2022, LIFE WILDIsland kick-off



- Gesamt **14,2 Mio. €** (davon **>70%** für **Umsetzung** konkreter Naturschutz-Maßnahmen)
zur Revitalisierung von insgesamt **34 Donau-Inseln**
- **11 Maßnahmen** zur hydro-morphologischen Revitalisierung (**7,9 Mio. €**, **55%** des Gesamtbudgets)
- Fluss-/Seitenarm-Dynamisierung auf mind. 48 km
- **12 waldbauliche Maßnahmen:** Umwandlung von Plantagen in natürliche Auwälder, IAS Management (**1,9 Mio. €**)
- **Donauweites Schutzkonzept** für die WILDIslands & schrittweise Realisierung: Ausweisung Schutzgebiete, Erweiterung Natura 2000, Etablierung „non-intervention Management“ (136.000 € - **strategische Partnerschaft**)



Voices

"The WILD island initiative is an excellent example for the establishment of Green and Blue Infrastructure. The Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor project contributes to further developing and strengthening the coherence of the Natura 2000 network."



Humberto Delgado Rosa
DG Environment European Commission
Director Natural Capital

Voices

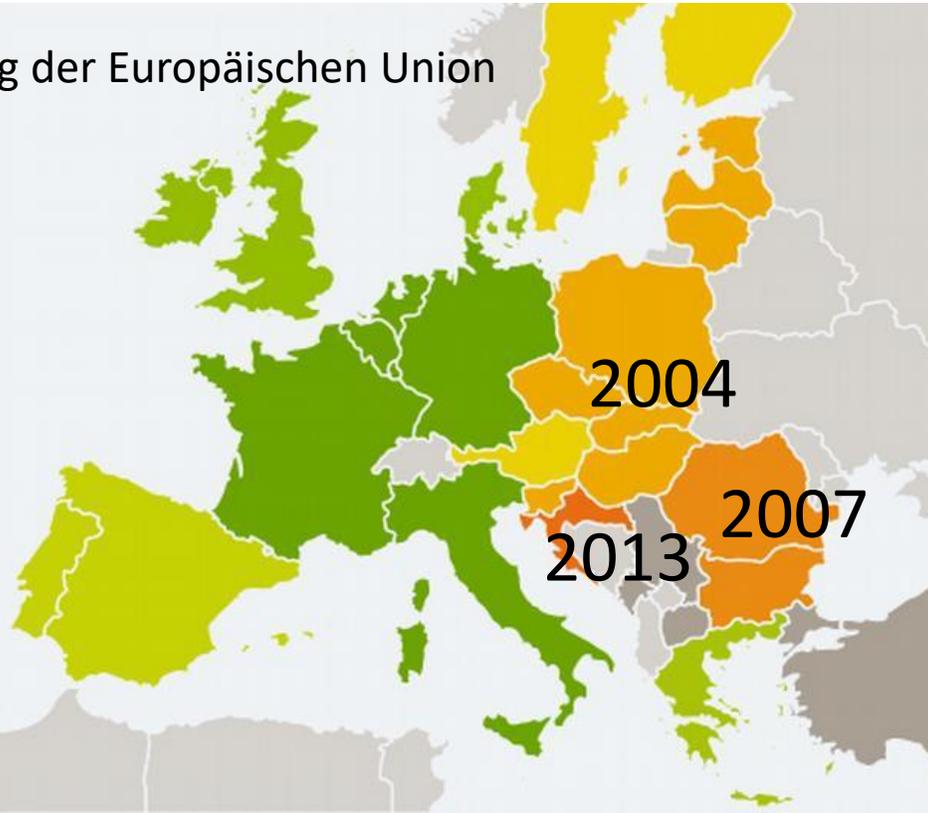
"The Danube River is a backbone for biodiversity in South-East Europe. Danube Protected Areas manage and protect the most valuable sites and habitats. The aim of DANUBE PARKS to foster a coherent management practice, and initiatives like the Wild Island Habitat Corridor contribute significantly to develop the Danube as a large-scale ecological corridor."



Florian Balhaus, Coordinator of the Priority Area 6 (Biodiversity) of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region



Erweiterung der Europäischen Union



10. Mai 2022, Wien (LIFE WILDIsland kick-off):

Kommuniqué der Botschafter (aller) Donauländer zur Bedeutung donauweiter Kooperation, der Vorreiterrolle von DANUBEPARKS und der Unterstützung einer Danube WILDIsland Ramsar Regional Initiative



1. Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

2. Lower Prut Nature Reserve

3. Comana Nature Park

4. Rusenski Lom Nature Park

5. Persina Nature Park

6. Iron Gates Nature Park

7. Gornje Podunavlje Special Nature Reserve

8. Kopački rit Nature Park

9. Regional Park Mura-Drava in Osijek-Baranja county

10. Lonjsko polje Nature Park

11. Duna-Dráva National Park

12. Duna-Ipoly National Park

13. Fertő-Hátság National Park

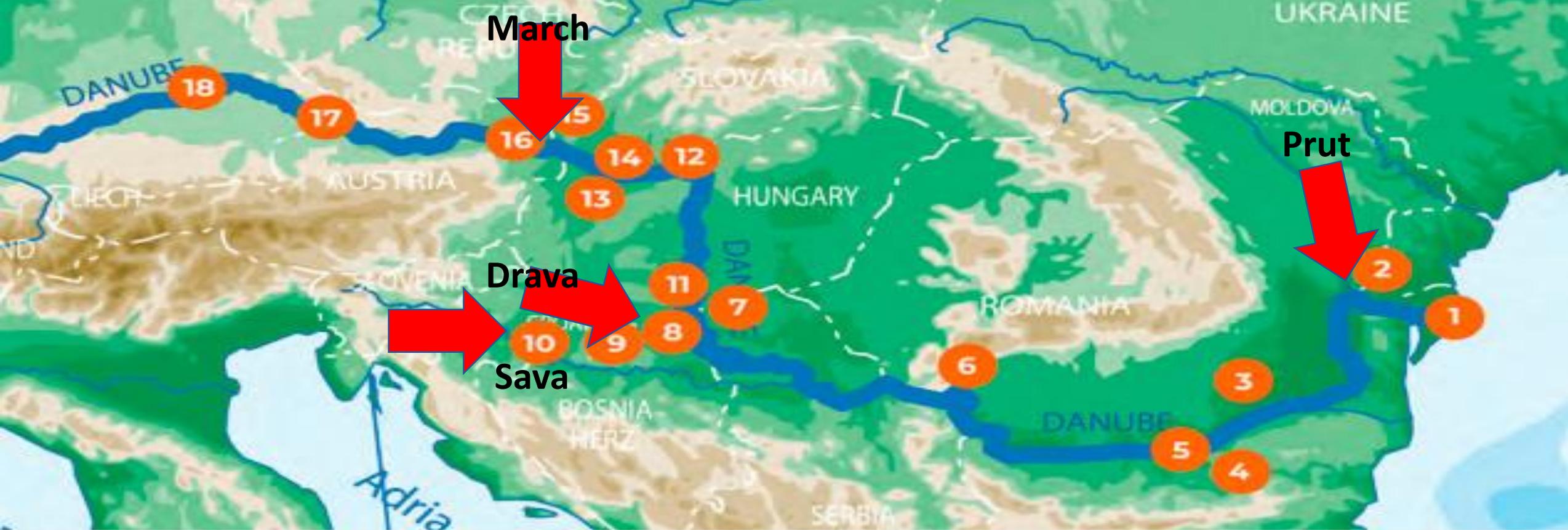
14. Dunajské luhy Landscape Protected Area

15. Záhorie Protected Landscape Area

16. Donau-Auen National Park

17. Narrow Valley of the Danube in Passau district

18. Donauauwald Neuburg-Ingolstadt



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14. Dunajské luhy Landscape

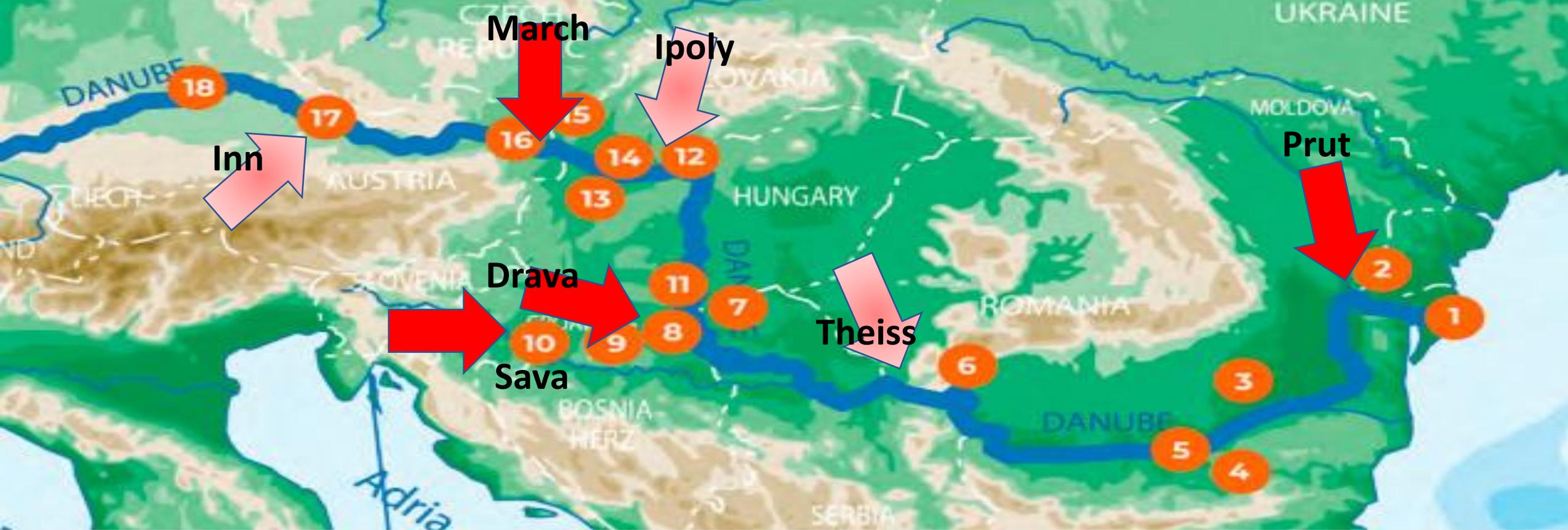
Protected Area

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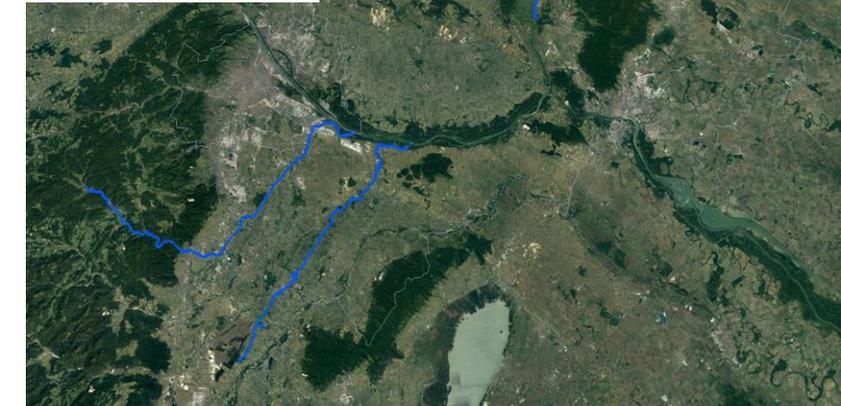
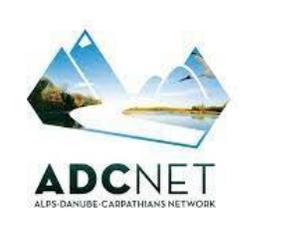
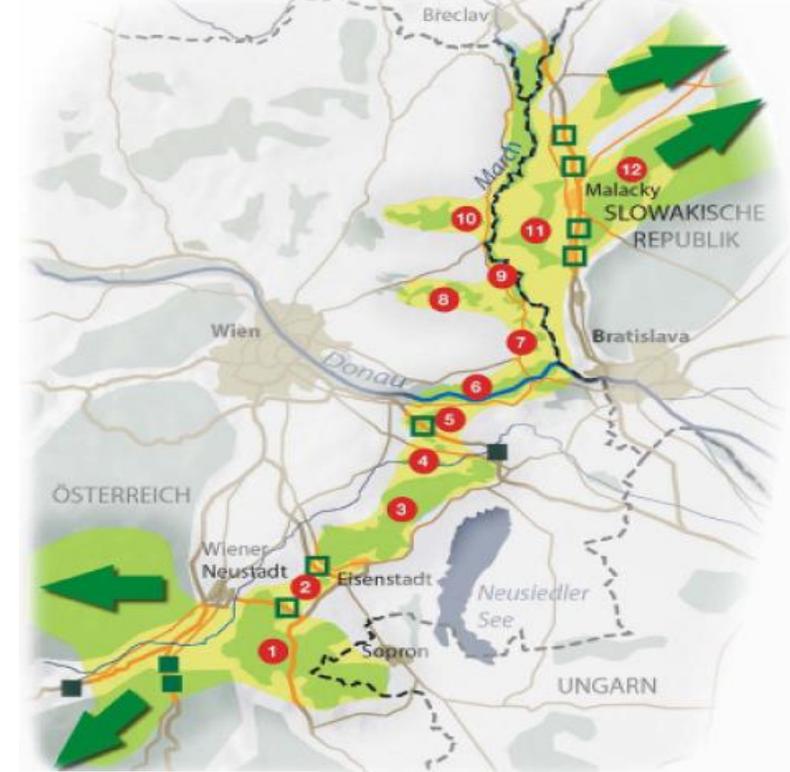
18. Donauauwald Neuburg-Ingolstadt



Perspektiven Kooperation INNsieme & DANUBE PARS

- Gegenseitige Inspiration & **gemeinsame Initiativen** (Zielsetzung: WILDIsland, Danube Free Sky als „Standards“ für andere große Flüsse in Europa)
- grenzübergreifende **Zubringerflüsse gemeinsam entwickeln** (Inn, Lech, March, Ipoly (SVK/HU), Tisza (UK/HU/ROM))
- „**Schwestern-Netzwerke**“ an Drau (MDD Biosphere Reserve), Save (Sava Parks), Prut (trilaterales Biosphärenreservat)
- Donau-Zubringerflüsse als **Lebensraum-Korridore** (z.B. zwischen **Alpen und Donau**) weiterentwickeln (siehe ADC Net (Alps, Danube, Carpathians), initiiert im Rahmen der Alpenkonvention)

Option: gemeinsame Projekteinreichung im Rahmen transnationaler Interreg-Programme???



An aerial photograph showing a coastal area. In the center, there is a small, roughly circular island covered in dense green vegetation. This island is surrounded by a wide, shallow expanse of water with a light brownish-green hue, likely due to sediment or sandbars. The water transitions to a deeper blue color towards the right side of the frame. Several small, dark objects, possibly birds or debris, are scattered across the shallow water. The overall scene depicts a natural, possibly protected, coastal environment.

**Vielen Dank für Ihre
Aufmerksamkeit!**