



PRESS RELEASE

International conference promotes cooperation for the Danube

Hainburg, 16 October 2013 - Lifeline and common identity, refuge for endangered species and international waterway: the Danube fulfils a wide variety of functions. In the framework of a Conference on 16 and 17 October at the Kulturfabrik Hainburg, an inspiring venue situated right beside the Danube, representatives of various interest groups are setting new initiatives for cooperation projects along the river.

The protected areas along the Danube play a key role in the preservation and protection of Europe's natural heritage. Since 2009, DANUBEPARKS – the Danube River Network of Protected Areas, initiated by the National Park Donau-Auen, bundles efforts with partner sites in the Danube region towards species protection, river revitalization and nature tourism.

The protected areas involved are now implementing the works initiated earlier in the project **DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0** which is running until 2014 and is the follow-up project of DANUBEPARKS.

With the project **NEWADA duo**, via donau, the Austrian Waterway Company is setting standards in both integrated and modern waterway management on the Danube incorporating environmental issues.

A two-day, interdisciplinary Conference on River Morphology and Ecological River Management, convened by the project teams of DANUBEPARKS STEP 2.0 and NEWADA duo on 16 and 17 October in the Kulturfabrik Hainburg got representatives of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), waterway administrations and Danube Protected Areas for the first time around the table.

Lectures, workshops, panel discussions and excursions are included in the two-day program.

This event aims to establish a new platform for international and interdisciplinary cooperation. Existing and potential areas of conflict areas of different interest groups should be identified and discussed thoroughly in order to develop common approaches. “The Danube is not just a waterway and not just a recreational paradise. Events such as today's conference are here to help us combine the different interests and needs involved “, said via donau Managing Director **Hans-Peter Hasenbichler** in his opening address.

DANUBEPARKS Speaker **Carl Manzano**, Director of the National Park Donau-Auen, added: “I wish as a result of this high-level event, to see numerous initiatives and ideas for future cross-border cooperation along the Danube. “

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For more information:

www.newada-duo.eu

www.danubeparks.org