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Prosperity through Diversity



CAPITALISATION WORKSHOP

Boosting Knowledge
and Competitiveness
in the Danube Region

DANOVA NEXT: Smart Transport Network for the accessibility of Passengers with disabilities and reduced mobility in the Danube Region through innovative services

Ing. Alexandra Benkovská

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
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DANOVA NEXT

Project Basic Information

- The project aims at improving accessibility of transport in the DR for all disabilities (visual/hearing impairments and reduced mobility) by enhancing innovation and technology transfer to create new customised innovative services, and by providing fully accessible Digital Travel Information Services (DTIS) through the creation of a smart network among airports, ports and local urban transport.
- Duration: **01/2024 – 06/2026**
- Project budget:
 - Interreg funds = **2.097.920,00 €** (80,00 % Co-financing rate)
 - Total with contributions = **2.622.400,00 €**

Partnership

- The DANOVA NEXT consortium is made of **18 partner organizations**, 16 PPs and 2 APs, coming from 11 countries located in the Danube Region.
- The consortium involves in fact 5 airports, 2 ports and 3 local urban transportation field, 3 organizations of people with disabilities, one for each type of disability tackled and 3 technical partners (1 competent on transport, 1 with specific expertise on disabilities and 1 specialized in innovation and technological transfer).

Intervention logic

- **2 critical aspects:**
 - the lack of services and barrier-free transport
 - the lack of harmonisation among countries, particularly considering the innovation level and uptake of advanced technologies
- **3 main innovation:**
 - physical accessibility of transport in the DR for all disabilities by creating new innovative services,
 - provision of data on the conditions of accessibility in the different networks through Fully accessible Digital Travel Information Services (DTIS),
 - creation of a Smart Network of transport facilities that will work on the sharing of data, practices and services in the DR

Project Main Objectives

- The overall project objective is the improvement of transport accessibility (air, water & urban transport) in the DR for all disabilities by creating innovative services, and providing fully accessible Digital Travel Information Services (DTIS) through the establishment of a Smart Network of transport facilities, making a change and contributing to reduce the innovation gap across the DR.
- **The main outputs will be:**
 - Strategy for accessible transport in the Danube Region
 - Smart Transport Network for PRM (Passengers with reduced mobility) digital accessibility data
 - Customised pilot participatory actions
 - Replication package

Project Main Objectives

- The TGs that will benefit from the outputs are:
 - Airport, ports, urban transport providers and authorities
 - Visual & hearing impaired and PRM associations
 - Local, Regional and National public authorities
- Links to EUSDR:
 - Reducing innovation barriers and closing the innovation gap through improved physical accessibility in air, water and urban transport, the development of DTIS for all disabilities, creation of a Smart Network for data sharing, standardization and harmonization, aligning with key EUSDR Priority Areas

Project Main Achievements

1. **Comprehensive Needs Assessment** – local assessment reports helped to identify key accessibility gaps in transport infrastructure
2. **The Strategy for Accessible Transport in the Danube Region** – outlines actionable steps for enhancing transport accessibility
3. **DANOVA NEXT Toolkit** – successfully developed and refined, offering a 60-question self-assessment tool and practical guidelines
4. **Digital Travel Information Services (DTIS)** – aims to provide digital solutions for accessibility, ensuring that all passengers can easily access relevant travel information
5. **Transnational Working Groups** – exchange of best practices helped align strategies across countries with diverse needs and challenges

Existing Cooperations/Synergies



- DANOVA NEXT project has used opportunity to synergy with project SITE from INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA programme
- Project SITE (Shaping Inclusive Tourism Experience objective):
 - to increase the attractiveness of tourist destinations and to foster tourism through the cross-border dissemination of the culture of Universal Design (UD);
 - to promote social inclusion, participation and sharing of ICT solutions to reduce barriers (architectural, sensorial, communicative) that limit access to people with disabilities or other needs, as families and the elderly, favoring non-discriminatory solutions.
- Online meeting already held in February 2025 to discuss synergy potential
- First live synergy meeting to be held in Dubrovnik on 2.4.2025 during SITE project regular transnational project meeting

Conclusion and Possibilities for Future Cooperation (Offers/Needs)

- Over 16% of world population has some forms of disabilities (more than 1 billion people, in Europe 87 million people), transport infrastructure neither DTIS is not accessible to them
- **Key takeaways:**
 - Accessible transport is right, not privilege
 - Every disability has unique needs that must be addressed
 - Innovation is a key to creating an inclusive transport system
 - Collaboration with stakeholders ensures sustainable solutions
- **DANOVA NEXT**
 - narrows the gap by providing strategic documents for transport service providers and institutions to follow in improving accessibility of their infrastructure and DTIS to all kind of disabilities (visual, hearing, physical);
 - provides clear road map for action; best practices and innovative solutions in PRM accessibility.

Contact details

www.interreg-danube.eu/projects/danova-next

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DANOVA NEXT PROJECT

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