

WORKING COMMUNITY of the DANUBE REGIONS

ARGE Donauländer

(Brief information)

Foundation:

17 May 1990, signing of the "Joint Declaration" on the board of the ship "Prinz Eugen" in the Danube

Objectives:

According to Section 1 of the Joint Declaration the ARGE has the objective of promoting co-operation among its members for the development of the Danube area to serve the interests of its inhabitants and to foster peaceful co-operation in Europe.

Procedures and financing:

Procedures are laid down in the "Joint Declaration" of 1990 and the "Procedural rules for the Organisation of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer" of 14 October 1993. As a matter of principle each member bears the cost engendered by the activities, interpreters are paid by the host region. For joint projects the pertaining work groups shall elaborate a financing plan and submit it for approval.

Structures, working method, working language:

According to its founders the ARGE should function with a minimum of institutionalisation. Based on this understanding the following bodies have been established:

- **Conference of Heads of Government**
Annual change of chairmanship - "following the "course-of-River-Danube" principle, unanimity principle, decisions have recommendational character, heads of governments of members are responsible for the implementation within the framework of their administration.
- **Working Group of Senior Officials**
Under the permanent chairmanship of the Lower Austrian Chief Executive, preparation and implementation of tasks devised by the Conference of Heads of Government
- **Office**
Administrative preparation of meetings and administrative tasks
Seat: Amt der NÖ Landesregierung, Landesamtsdirektion
- **Work Groups**
 - **Culture and Science**; Chair: Lower Austria
with 2 Working Groups: **Danube Culture Route** and **Cultural Heritage**
 - **Transport and Shipping**; Chair: Vienna
with 1 Working Group: "**Secondary Ports**"; Chair: Rouse and
1 Project Group "**Danube cycle track**"; Chair: Vienna;
 - **Zoning and Environmental Protection**; Chair: County Bacs-Kiskun
with 2 Working Groups on the subjects **zoning** and **ecology/Soil Conservation**; both chaired by the Slovak Republik
 - **Economy and Tourism**; Chair: County Győr-Moson-Sopron
 - **Youth and Sports**; Chair: County Pest
 - "**Rural development**", Working group with overlapping function;
Chair: Zupanja Vukovarsko-Srijemska



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT
DONAULÄNDER
PRACOVNÍ SPOLEČENSTVÍ
PODUNAJSKÝCH ZEMÍ
PRACOVNÉ SPOLOČENSTVO
PODUNAJSKÝCH KRAJÍN
DUNAMENTI TARTOMÁNYOK
MUNKAKÖZÖSSÉGE
RADNA ZAJEDNICA
PODUNAVSKIH REGIJA
RADNA ZAJEDNICA
PODUNAVSKIH ZEMALJA
COMUNITATEA DE LUCRU
A STATELOR DUNĂRENE
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ
РОБОЧА СПІВДРУЖНІСТЬ
ПРИДУНАЙСЬКИХ КРАЇН

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The conference languages are the official languages of the members. Documents for meetings are issued to the members in German.

The most important achievements and the most significant projects for the coming years:

In the area of zoning and environmental protection e.g. measures for the protection of the ozone layer between Bavaria and Budapest, elaboration of a master scheme for sustainable development in the Danube area.

In the area of tourism and culture, e.g. concept of a cycle-hiking paths along the River Danube, list of historical-technical monuments, establishment of a restoration workshop for destroyed cultural property in Osijek (Croatia), project of a "Danube Culture Route".

In the area of economic matters, e.g. contacts between the Danube-area chambers of commerce.

In the area of transport e.g. further development of environmentally sound means of transport (ships, trains, etc.), "Portino", Study about the development of smaller harbours.

Interreg II C projects: „Cultural Itinerary Danube“, „Study on Traffic Development“,

Interreg III B projects: „Donauhansé“ – Cooperation between Danube Cities and Harbours

Youth contact seminars: Conferences of Youth Ambassadors, Danube Teens Camp

Members (38): D: Baden Württemberg, *Bavaria(till 2005)*, A: Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Vienna, Burgenland, Slovak Republic, H: County Győr-Ménfőcsanak, County Komárom-Esztergom, County Pest, Budapest, County Fejér, County Bács-Kiskőrűs, County Tolna, County Baranya, HR: Zupanija Osječko-Baranjska, Zupanija Vukovarsko-Srijemska, Serb Republic, BG: Regions Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Rousse, Silistra, RO: Union of Danube Regions of Romania (12 Regions :Caras Severin, Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Ialomita, Braila, Galati, Tulcea und Constanta) , Republic of Moldavia, UKR: Odessa Region

Observer (1): South Moravia Region, CZ

The working community enjoys the status of Observer in the Assembly of European Regions and in Central European Initiative, Project partner in "Danube Co-operation Process" and cooperates with the "International Advertising Campaign – The Danube" and the "Danube Offices"

Total number of inhabitants: ca. 80.000.000

Total surface area: 650.000 sqkm

Chair 2007: Zupanija Vukovarsko-Srijemska, HR

2008: Tulcea Region; RO

2009: Oberösterreich (Upper Austria); A

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