

## **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
- **General Secretariat**  
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
  - **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

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 STATETOR DUNARENE  
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ  
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ  
РОБОЧА СПІВДРУЖНІСТЬ  
ПРИДУНАЙСЬКИХ КРАЇН

- **“Rural development”**, Working group with overlapping function;  
Chair: Zupanija Vukovarsko-Srijemska  
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:** „Donauhanse“ – Cooperation between Danube Cities and Harbours

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

**Projects in progress:** Donauhanse II, “Recipes from the Danube Regions”, Portino II

**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

**Republic of Serbia**

**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 Moldova**

**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** 2008: Tulcea Region; RO  
2009: Oberösterreich (Upper Austria); A  
2010: City and State of Vienna, A

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