

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region  
Priority Area 1b: To improve mobility and Multimodality - road, rail and air links

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Stakeholders' Conference  
THE DANUBE REGION TRANSPORT DAYS 2025  
“Road & Rail – Working Together for a Better Connected Danube Region”

# Danube Region Transport Networks – Progress and Gaps

Session 2:  
STATE OF PLAY – TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE DANUBE REGION

Franč Žepič, Secretary PA1b team member  
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Slovenia



Co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF)

**DRTD 2025**

9-10 December 2025 | Ljubljana  
Slovenia

## Reminder: The Danube macro-region

- **14 States:** Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany (Baden Wuerttemberg, Bavaria), Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine (Odessa, Ivano Frankivska, Chernovitsi, Zakarpattia)
- **Population: 115 million** (EU27: 448 million)
- **Area: 1.092.591 km<sup>2</sup>** (EU27: 4,225,134)

### EUSDR: Communication and Action Plan

- 8 December 2010: adopted by the EC
- 24 June 2011: endorsed by the European Council!
- **6 April 2020: Revised Action plan**

**4 thematic pillars**, backbone is „Connecting the Danube region“

**EUSDR - 11 Priority areas** (24 coordinators – PACs)

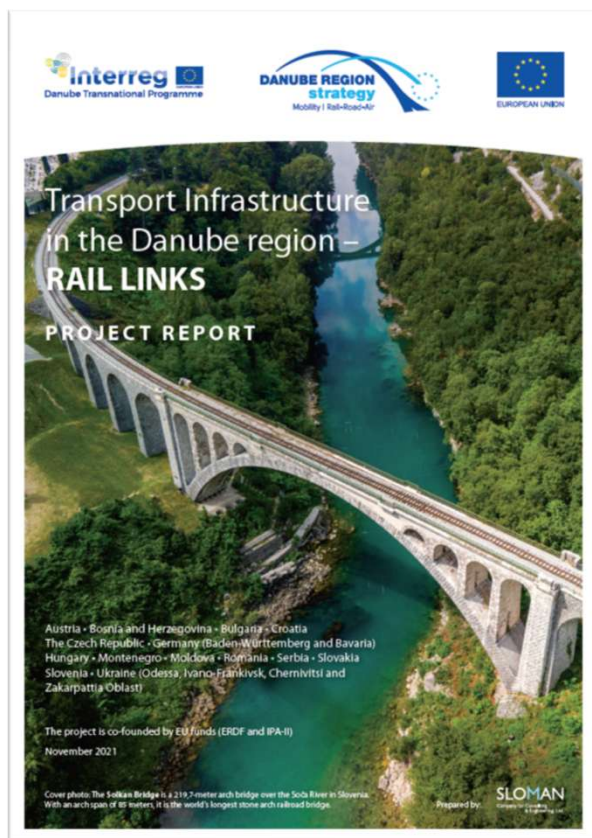
### PA 1: To improve Mobility and Multimodality

- ✓ **PA 1a: Inland Waterways - Austria and Romania**
- ✓ **PA 1b : Road, Rail and Air links - Slovenia and Serbia**





# Understanding the Danube Region: Studies, Publications



- **Transport Analysis for Danube region (2017)**
- **Intermodal transport users' needs in the Danube Region (2018)**
- **Transport Infrastructure – Road Links (2018)**
- **Transport Infrastructure – Rail Links (2021)**
- **Transport Infrastructure – Air Links (2026)**



# RAIL: Unbalanced Transport Networks & Services

## RAILWAYS:

- Lengths: **66.874 km**,
- Double-track: **16.908 km**
- Electrified: **47 %**

## Solutions and challenges:

- EU: **4 Rail Packages** (safety, ERA, interoperability) and **Interoperability of locomotives**
- The **different gauges** between the EU and Moldova and Ukraine (a major obstacle, since it means goods need to be reloaded at the border or change carts)

Danube Region

Railways





# ROAD: Motorways

## ROADS:

- Motorways **12.592 km**
- main or national roads **105.593 km**
- Total lengths **880.000 km**,
- No common categorisation!

Danube Region

Motorways and expressways



# EUSDR: Challenges in Logistics

LPI (Logistics Performance Index) measures logistics efficiency.

## LPI Six Component Indicators:

- 1) The efficiency of the **clearance process** (e.g. speed, simplicity)
- 2) **Quality of infrastructure** (roads, rail, ports, RRT, ITS)
- 3) The ease of arranging **competitively priced shipments**
- 4) The competence and **quality of logistics services** (transport operators, customs brokers)
- 5) The **ability to track and trace** consignments
- 6) The frequency with which **shipments reach the consignee** within the **scheduled or expected delivery time**

## Danube macro-region countries:

**LPI ranking and scores 2016 and 2023** (of 160 countries)

Country	Rank	Country	Rank
<b>Germany</b>	(4) <b>3</b>	<b>Hungary</b>	(40) <b>51</b>
<b>Austria</b>	(11) <b>7</b>	<b>Romania</b>	(54) <b>51</b>
<b>Croatia</b>	(42) <b>43</b>	<b>Montenegro</b>	(120) <b>73</b>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	(44) <b>43</b>	<b>Serbia</b>	(75) <b>73</b>
<b>Slovakia</b>	(51) <b>43</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>	(66) <b>79</b>
<b>Slovenia</b>	(34) <b>43</b>	<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina</b>	(55) <b>61</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	(36) <b>51</b>	<b>Moldova</b>	(132) <b>97</b>

Source: World Bank (Connecting to compete 2016: Trade logistics in the global Economy <http://lpi.worldbank.org/international/global/2016>)

## PA1b Objectives

**Merging the EU and non-EU transport systems** by following as much as possible approaches of:

- Co-modality & full modal integration
- Stronger cross-border links
- Better connections to TEN-T



**Bridging transport gaps between the Danube region countries**, such as:

- Promote sustainable transport development,
- Improve quality of transport infrastructure (maintenance, missing links, bottlenecks),
- Improve quality of services (e.g. logistics),
- Enhance resilience, safety, security,
- etc.



## More questions than answers!

- **What transport** do people **use most**? How and why will that **change in the future**?
- Which transport improvements will **reduce travel time or costs** the most?
- Are we planning for **current or future population** patterns?
- What level of **cross-border cooperation** is truly necessary?
- Do population density and travel patterns justify **high-speed rail**?
- Is the network **resilient** enough to climate and geopolitical shocks?





# Thank you very much!

Please visit:

<https://transport.danube-region.eu/>



## PAC Serbia Team

Ministry of Construction, Transport  
and Infrastructure  
Belgrade  
E-mail:

## PAC Slovenia Team

Ministry of Infrastructure  
Ljubljana  
E-mail: [beno.fekonja@gov.si](mailto:beno.fekonja@gov.si)