

## PROJECT - “BRIDGE LIFELINE DANUBE”

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Project “**BRIDGE *Lifeline Danube***” runs under the Community Initiative INTERREG IIC within the Operational Programme Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern Europe Space (CADSES). The Project “**BRIDGE *Lifeline Danube***” understands itself as the initial project at the beginning of a process for persistent development along the Danube. Creating a partnership between the participating cities, the administrative units (city councils) and the universities is an essential part of the project.

There will be a series of events to enable work on planning tasks along the Danube and integrate already existing projects. The results of the planning process and the continuing research will be recorded and disseminated. The Project “**BRIDGE *Lifeline Danube***” can also be found in the INTERNET. Go to the web site of the INSTITUTE FOR OPEN SPACE DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (IFL) at the UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES. <http://ifl.boku.ac.at>

## 2 INSTALLATION OF THE PROJECT-MANAGEMENT

The preparational work for this project took place from February 1999 until the Kick Off meeting in October 1999. During this time we contacted all the cities along the Danube, from Deggendorf to Budapest.

A project management was installed at the INSTITUTE FOR OPEN SPACE DESIGN AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT (IFL) at the UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES in Vienna. The IFL and the planning institute in Linz (LPi) prepared the Kick Off meeting. Coordinational, organizational and financial tasks during this time were handled by Petra Schwaiger (IFL) and Dipl. Ing. Sabine Kreuzer (LPi).

## 3 SCIENTIFIC PREPARATION

During the scientific preparations intensive conversations between the participating cities were already taking place. These were necessary to find out scientific questions for our common project and most of all to find partners at universities and administrative units with a wide range of knowledge. It was possible to acquire representatives from the human, social and technical sciences as partners for our project.

In the beginning of August a meeting of the four project coordinators, of the four countries, took place in Linz. Organizational and contents of the Kick Off meeting were decided here. We decided to organize the Kick Off meeting by the method of a ‘future search conference’. This strategic conference method is special because it enables the participants to develop their own working methods together and to work on tasks that they choose themselves.

The project was presented at the “Danube rectors conference” in Bratislava, in September 1999 and at the international conference “Didactic Forum of landscape architecture” in Cracow.

#### **4 ORGANISATION AND PERFORMANCE OF THE “KICK-OFF MEETING” WITHIN A “FUTURE SEARCH CONFERENCE” - “VISION FOR THE DANUBE-REGION”**

From the 4th to the 7th October 1999 the first meeting of the participating cities took place in Krems at the monastery UND. The subject of the Kick Off meeting was “Vision for the Danube-Region” and was held in form of a future search conference. The conference was organized with the city of Krems, the Institute for Open Space Design and Landscape Management (IFL) at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Vienna and the Planning Institute in Linz. Representatives from planning departments, administrative units and universities from 8 different cities in four nations took part. These cities are: Deggendorf and Passau in Germany, Linz, Krems and Vienna in Austria, Bratislava in Slovakia and Győr and Budapest in Hungary.

##### **4.1 The “future search conference” - method**

The future search conference serves as a method to intensify the cooperation between the cities. It is an instrument which enables even large groups of people (36 people), with divergent views and interests, to develop possible agreements and goals. At this conference there was plenty of time to work out plans and visions of an ideal future and create a picture of the upcoming process of working together. On three successive days, 6 different groups worked on five tasks. Their plans and results were presented and discussed at the plenary meeting.

- The conference started with a focus on our history. All the participants presented their relationship to the Danube-region over the last thirty years.
- In the second phase the present reality was examined and a ‘mind map’ was created. Current external trends of upcoming challenges for the Danube-region were discussed.
- The third step was to take a look at current reality and to discover common values. All the participants reported about the current situation in their region. At this point of the conference the participants asked themselves “what do we feel proud about and what do we feel sorry about”.
- In the fourth phase we imagined the possible future development of the Danube-region in the year 2010 and worked on common goals.
- In the last phase action was taken by planning new projects.

#### **5 PREVIEW OF THE NEXT STEPS**

The first result of the future search conference, which took place from the 4th to the 7th October is, that attractive project ideas were chosen by different groups. During the next few months, representatives from universities and administrative units will work on the projects. One of the initial aims of the meeting, to develop a common language for spatial planning, was proven necessary. The participants decided on 7 different projects which will be implemented within the next few month and presented in April 2000.

##### **5.1 Developing a common language for spatial planning**

- [Homepage Lifeline Danube.net](http://Homepage.Lifeline.Danube.net).

Networking among planners, cities and universities to facilitate the exchange of information and data, within new information technologies will be improved. An inter-

disciplinary link between existing institutions (VITECC, Municipia) and new institutions will be the main focus of this project.

## **5.2 Cooperation between the administrative units of the cities and universities**

- Hot spots in the cities

Open space along the Danube will be observed by the participating cities and planning possibilities will be developed.

- International Danube University

This project will try to give an overall view about the existing study possibilities at the different universities along the Danube.

## **5.3 Implementing current projects**

- The Danube, an ecological corridor

To reach the best possible landscape structure, corridors will be separated and the optimal use will be analysed.

- Bike path net in the Danube-region

The office for culture and traffic in Deggendorf will be coordinating this project and will develop a common marketing and infrastructural concept for a bike path from Donaueschingen to the black see. Students from Bratislava, Deggendorf and Vienna will be working on a Bridge-project. They will start off with a workshop where technical, planning and construction ideas will be presented. The planning and designing of this bridge in Schloßhof, will be realized in the summer semester 2000.

- Persistent community development

In this project, participants will evaluate German and English literature on community development. They will also develop a landscape concept for the Danube communities of the Budapest agglomeration and a geographical information system for the Danube region.

- Sustainable traffic development in the region Vienna-Bratislava-Győr.

This project will evaluate planning deficiencies and analyse the demand for coordination and action in traffic connections and green corridors.

To coordinate the whole project, there will be a series of events to enable a constant exchange between the universities and the administration.

- In April 2000 there will be an additional meeting in Bratislava with all the participants. The purpose of this meeting is to analyse the results of the different projects. The chosen projects will be used as models to develop sustainable planning and design in the Danube region.
- In November 2000 the “best practice” models will be presented in a final conference in Budapest. The final evaluation of all the projects (end of the whole project 31.07.2001) will be in the summer of 2001.

contact:

Werner Kvarda  
A-1190, Vienna, Peter Jordanstraße 82  
Institute for Landscape Architecture and Landscape Management – IFL  
University of Agricultural Sciences - BOKU  
e-mail: [freiraum@mail.boku.ac.at](mailto:freiraum@mail.boku.ac.at)  
www: <http://ifl.boku.ac.at/>

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