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## Working Party on Inland Water Transport

### Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation

#### Fifty-sixth session

Geneva, 12–14 February 2020

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

#### Other business

## **Project "Development of common database and legal framework for ships inspections for the common Bulgarian-Romanian stretch of the Danube river with interface to the national River Information Service (RIS)" (DANRiSS)**

### **Transmitted by Bulgaria**

Project "Development of common database and legal framework for ships inspections for the common Bulgarian-Romanian stretch of the Danube river with interface to the national River Information Service (RIS)" - DANRiSS, project code: 16.5.2.014, was launched on 11 May 2017, in line with the principles of the European Union 2020 Strategy of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and in direct response to one of the specific objectives of the EU funded INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme for increasing the cooperation capacity and the efficiency of the public institutions in the cross-border cooperation context.

The DANRiSS Project, which is implemented by the Bulgarian Executive Agency "Maritime Administration" (EAMA) in the capacity of a Lead Partner and the Romanian Naval Authority (RNA) as a Project Partner, has the ambition **to increase the level of coordination between the two institutions** by further optimization and development of their collaboration in the field of river supervision regime in the common Bulgarian-Romanian stretch of the Danube River.

The DANRiSS Project, which is now in its closing phase, has successfully achieved its main objective by reinforcing the efficiency of the performed by the both institutions tasks regarding the control and monitoring of the navigation and by optimizing the existing and creating new mechanisms for joint cross-border solutions.

As a result of the project implementation, the two Partners jointly drafted the text of *Agreement between the Bulgarian Executive Agency "Maritime Administration" and the Romanian Naval Authority on the inland waterway vessels inspections on the common Bulgarian-Romanian stretch of the Danube River*, which was signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2018 in Ruse, Bulgaria by the heads of the two administrations. The purpose of the

Agreement is to provide a legal framework for optimal and harmonized supervision in the field of navigation, performed by the competent authorities in Bulgaria and Romania.

Another outcome of the DANRiSS project is the prepared *Specific rules for the navigation in the common Bulgarian – Romanian stretch of the Danube river*, which after being approved at national level, will provide harmonization between the partnering institutions in the context of: Increasing the level of security of navigation; Synchronization and enhancement of the navigation signalling; Alignment of control, inspection and procedures upon arrival/departure of ships; Environmental protection; Partners' database usage by both administrations.

One of the significant achievements of the project implementation is the *Integrated System for Ships Inspection - electronic database software package and equipment*, which was delivered for the use of the two Partners under the DANRiSS project. The system will provide a technical and organizational pilot support for the purpose of the optimum and harmonized performance of the day-to-day tasks in the field of ships inspection of the Bulgarian-Romanian common stretch of the Danube river. The integrated system is now fully functional as information from ships inspections is being entered upon every inspection, performed by the competent authorities.

Last but not least, the Partnership has developed a *Risk assessment methodology for river supervision inspections*, which provides methods for calculation of risk mitigation in order to limit the number of hazardous situations. The prepared document is based on performed research of previous accidents on the Danube river and tracks the causal chain "risk of occurrence of navigational accidents" as method for identification, prevention and control of the risk of occurrence of possible accidents.

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