

# IMPACT STORY

# DAVID

# FORMS





# BACKGROUND

Along the Danube, the ten riparian states inside and outside the Schengen area and within EU external borders have different national legislation to ensure border controls.

For the ship crews navigating the river, the administrative procedures for border crossing are rather complicated, as each country requires different control procedures and control forms to be filled in and submitted at each border crossing.

For the economic operators, this lack of coordination between the Danube riparian countries means a massive waste of time and, thus increased transport costs.





# THE ROLE OF EUSDR

Two EUSDR Priority Areas have jointly addressed this issue: **PA 1a** – Waterways Mobility and **PA 11** – Security, through a **joint Working Group** which surveyed shipping companies, shipbrokers, port and terminal operators, nautical personnel, and industry representatives to obtain their views on better coordination of activities with the transport sector.

With expert support, the Working Group developed **Danube Navigation Standard Forms (DAVID forms)** with a **unified structure and harmonised data fields** for three often used forms available in national languages and English:

- DAVID Arrival & Departure Report
- DAVID Crew List
- DAVID Passenger List



# IMPORTANCE

Starting in June 2022, the **DAVID forms are in use at all border checkpoints on and outside the external Schengen borders in the Danube region.**

After Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Ukraine introduced the DAVID forms in 2020, Romania and the Republic of Moldova followed in the first half of 2022, thus completing the introduction process.

The following step was the **digitalisation of the DAVID forms**. For this purpose, a new platform – **CEERIS** (Central Eastern European River Information Services) – is being used. CEERIS reduces reporting burdens by tackling the fragmentation of national Electronic Reporting International (ERI) Systems. It **improves traffic and transport management** and **increases the transparency and efficiency** of the entire process.





# CEERIS PLATFORM

Promoted as a **platform for reporting only once** - CEERIS is a **joint initiative of 8 countries**: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia.

The platform enables vessel operators navigating the Danube corridor and the Elbe River in the Czech Republic to fulfil all reporting requirements for a specific inland waterway transport in participating countries by “reporting only once” with “single data entry”.

Before heading out, vessel operators provide information about their voyage, like ship type, cargo type, and the planned route. The operators are then presented with a single form containing all the information required by each authority and port en route. The system automatically creates and sends custom reports to every port and border crossing.

The further digitalisation of the DAVID forms will depend on the roll-out of electronic reporting services via the CEERIS platform, which is generally scheduled in 2023, and on the further integration of the authorities in the digitalisation process.





## SUPPORT

The comprehensive **digitalisation** of (border) control forms took place in the frame of the **RIS COMEX project** (co-financed in the Connecting Europe Facility).

The RIS COMEX project resulted in two integrated platforms: **EuRIS** (fairway information services, traffic information services, services for logistics) and **CEERIS** (retrieving of reporting requirements, electronic reporting services for skippers, receiving authority services).





# ENSURING SAFER DANUBE REGION

The results achieved so far encourage the EUSDR-involved Priority Area 11 to continue their activities **to further improve the systems of border control, document inspection management and cooperation on consular-related issues in the Danube Region.**

Targeted activities, such as developing well-functioning border-management systems, fostering cooperation and exchange of best practices on document inspection management, and better managing migration in the Danube Region, will **contribute to the creation of safer and more efficient operations on the Danube.**





**Slovenian Presidency**  
of the EU Strategy  
for the Danube Region

To check the **DAVID forms** and **CEERIS platform**, visit: <https://navigation.danube-region.eu/introduction-of-the-harmonized-david-forms-along-the-danube-successfully-completed/>