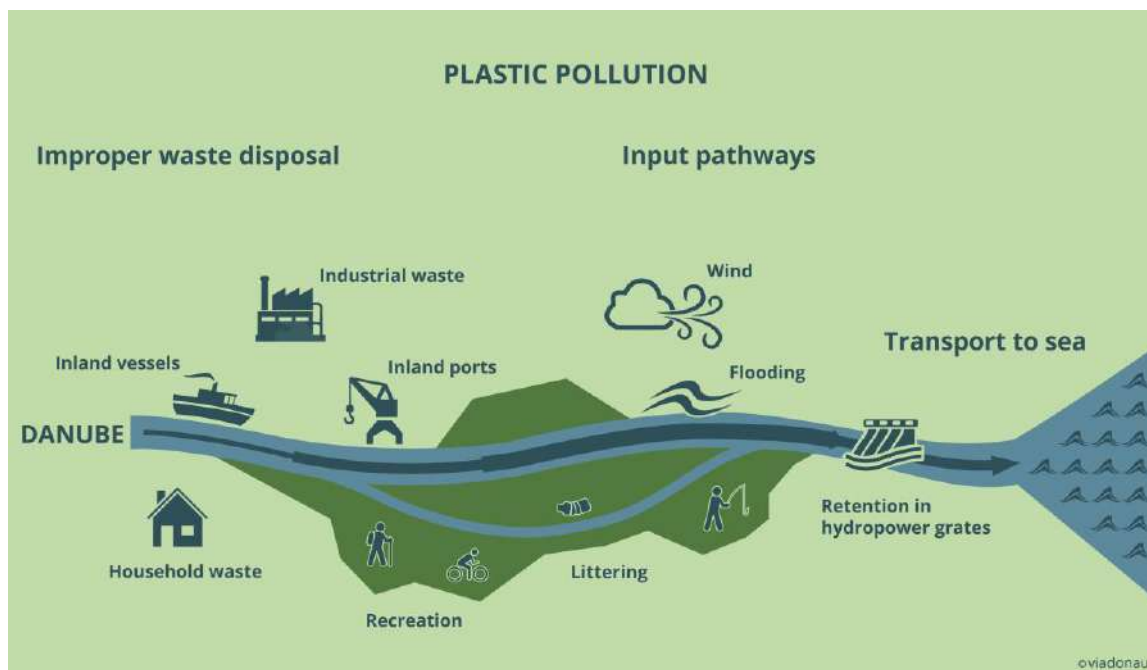


## PlasticFreeDanube

### Macro plastic waste in and along the Danube

Although plastic has many advantages, it has become a serious environmental hazard and has been recognized as global problem. Especially plastic waste in marine ecosystems has become a great environmental problem on regional and global levels. Rivers are recognized as main vectors of pollution although sources and pathways of plastic in the rivers and its environmental impacts remain unclear.

The project **PlasticFreeDanube** focuses on macro plastic waste (> 5 mm) in and along the river Danube in the territory of the Danube and parts of its riparian area from the metropolitan areas of Vienna and Bratislava down to the hydropower plant Gabčíkovo (SK). The overall aim of the project is to establish a scientifically sound knowledge base as well as a methodological approach on plastic waste in and along the river in terms of entrance points, quantities, transport patterns, and environmental threats.



The project targets the following main objectives:

- Providing methodologies, data and a manual for assessment and monitoring of plastic pollution in the fluvial ecosystems
- Development of an action plan for the management of plastic waste and implementation of pilot measures against plastic pollution in the Danube
- Raising awareness of the general public and stakeholders about plastic litter pollution in rivers

Data on origin, amounts, composition and properties of the plastic waste entering the Danube river in this study area will be collected from existing data and from field studies, (waste collection and sorting campaigns) to be then summarized in a material-flow analysis, and subsequently qualitative analysed.



Furthermore, environmental threats from plastic degradation in water will be evaluated. Thereafter, measures to tackle this problem will be developed, pilot measures implemented and a Joint Action plan elaborated. An awareness raising campaign and capacity building activities for stakeholders will ensure dissemination and sustainability of project findings.

Main planned outputs of the project are:

- Material flow and transport model of plastic waste in and along Danube
- Methodology for standardized sampling and sorting and data on quantities of plastic waste
- Methodology for qualitative analysis and data on composition of plastic waste
- Action plan for management of plastic waste in and along the Danube accompanied by pilot measures
- Awareness raising campaign and educational materials
- Plastic litter information and communication platform

The bilateral project **PlasticFreeDanube** is implemented by 5 partners from Austria and Slovakia and 18 strategic partners.

### Project Partners

- **Project Lead** – Institute of Waste Management (ABF-BOKU), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria / [www.boku.ac.at/abf](http://www.boku.ac.at/abf)
- Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and River Research (IWA), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria / [www.boku.ac.at/iwa](http://www.boku.ac.at/iwa)
- via donau – Austrian Waterway Company, Austria / [www.viadonau.org](http://www.viadonau.org)
- RepaNet o.z., Slovakia / [www.repanet.sk](http://www.repanet.sk)
- PISAS – Polymer Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia / [www.polymer.sav.sk](http://www.polymer.sav.sk)
- Donau-Auen National Park, Austria / [www.donauauen.at](http://www.donauauen.at)

### Strategic Partners

The following strategic partners have a supporting role and represent important multipliers for the project work.

#### Austria

- Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (BMNT)
- Generation Blue
- Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT)
- City of Vienna, MA 45 – Water Management
- Regional Government of Lower Austria
- Environment Agency Austria (UBA)
- Environmental Association of Lower Austria
- Environmental Education Austria

#### Slovakia

- Association of the municipalities Horného Žitného ostrova (ZOHZO)
- Vodohospodárska výstavba, štátny podnik
- V srdci Európy, o.z. (NGO)
- Enviwork, s.r.o.
- Slovak Chemical Society
- SEA – Science and Education Agency
- ENVIDOM - Association of Manufacturers of Electric Appliances for Recycling

#### International

- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)
- Clean Europe Network (CEN)
- Association EcoStuff Romania

### Duration & Budget

Duration: 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2020

Funding programme: Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria 2014-2020 / [www.sk-at.eu](http://www.sk-at.eu)

Budget: EUR 1.23 Mil. / EU-Funding (ERDF): EUR 1.05 Mil.

**Further information:** [www.plasticfreedanube.eu](http://www.plasticfreedanube.eu)

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